SUPER / D1
Billboards: Heed writing on wall and bring back the sky

METRO / A19
Mike A files ₱22-M libel raps again vs PDI, Tulfo brothers

WORLD / A22
US Congress probes sex scandal now rocking Republican party

BUSINESS / B1
Forex reserves hit all-time high at $21.56 billion

Electricity spot market goes on despite probe

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW THE LOCAL electricity spot market to continue operations despite allegations of price manipulation involving its single biggest player, the state-owned Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla has ignored

ELECTRICITY, A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, October 7, 2006 44 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 351 P18 website: www.inq7.net

It's geek-turn-chic at IgNobel Prizes night

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—Scientists who answered questions such as why woodpeckers don't get headaches, whether dung beetles like their diet and if rectal massage can cure hic-

IT'S GENUTUMO, A10

Gov't loses ₱25-B tax evasion case vs Lucio Tan

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY LOST ITS ₱25-billion tax evasion case against the country's second richest person, tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, after the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court dismissed the case for insufficient evidence.

The decision was a blow to the Bureau of Internal Revenue which has been trying since 1993 to go after the alleged tax liabilities of Tan, who made his fortune in cigarettes and beer during the dictatorship of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos but has repeatedly denied that he was a Marcos crony or acquired several companies at preferential prices.

The Manila court dismissed charges that Tan's Fortune Tobacco Corp. and its executives evaded ₱25 billion in taxes by not paying the correct amount on cigarettes from 1990 to 1993.

In a decision penned by Presiding Judge Alex F. Reis, the court said the prosecution failed to prove that Fortune owned even a single share of stock in what the BIR alleged were its dummy corporations.

The court acquitted Tan and 34 other consorted who were alleged to be officers of the alleged dummy companies.

The BIR accused Fortune of creating nine

GOVT LOSES, A9

Imelda wins graft case; 75 to go

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARCOS wept and whispered a prayer after the anti-graft court yesterday found her innocent of corruption charges in one of the many cases still pending against her.

"I thank the court for acquitting me," said Marcos, who has at least 75 criminal and civil cases (down from 900) still pending before the Sandiganbayan and other courts.

"I have survived 20 years of relentless persecutions. The truth has prevailed," she said, after the promulgation of the decision of the antigraft court's Fifth Division.

The Fifth Division, composed of Associate Justices Roland Jurado, Ma. Cristina Cortez Estrada and Teresita Diaz Baldos, also acquitted

IMELDA, A9

IMELDA: Marcos breaks down at the Sandiganbayan after she hears the not guilty verdict over a 13-year-old graft case.

Nursing leak nationwide

Prosecutor protests no rebuttal in rape case

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

THE SUBIC RAPE CASE HAS TAKEN an even more controversial turn, with a member of the state prosecution panel denouncing the decision of the panel chair to waive the rebuttal of defense evidence that might have cast doubt on the testimony of prosecution witnesses.

In a phone interview yesterday with the Inquirer, State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez assailed Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Fe de los Santos for canceling the planned presentation of rebuttal witnesses without consulting "Nicole," the Filipina complainant against four US Marines, or her private lawyer Evalyn Ursua.

Valdez is the only one among the five state prosecutors whom Nicole had wanted to remain.

"I stand firm on the position that we should have presented rebuttal witnesses. I still believe we made a good case, but we should've taken this opportunity rather than regret it in the future. Because what if the decision is an acquittal?" said Valdez.

Asked what she believed was behind the waiver of the planned rebuttal, Valdez said: "You would suspect the ratings. I can't dis-

PROSECUTOR, A6

BURIED BEFORE SUNSET. An imam prays over the six Muslim children inside a mosque in Barangay Sta. Ana in Taytay, Rizal, before bringing them to Maharlika Village for burial before sunset in accordance with the Islamic faith. Police did not allow the incarcerated parents to attend the funeral without first securing a court order

MARY JOY

6 'home-alone' kids die in Taytay fire

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEY WERE NOT EVEN ALlowed to bury their children.

Three days ago, inside a rented room, Tan Daud and his wife, Ibrahim, were sharing a simple repast of biscuits and bottled water with their four sons and a daughter, aged 2 to 7.

Little did Tan and Ibrahim know that that was the last time they would see them.

Yesterday, as bombing fire razed their home in Taytay, Rizal, killing all the five children and one of their playmates.

When their bodies were found, one of the children was still cradling the 2-year-old in her arms.

Tan and Ibrahim would have done everything to save them.

But they were kilometers away—detained for the last two months in the Philippine National Police Headquarters in Camp Crame in Quezon City for alleged involvement in illegal drugs.

Not did they get to see the remains of their children before they were buried yesterday afternoon at the Imam Moh Kiram Memorial Park inside the Maharlika Village in Taguig City.

6 HOME-ALONE, A6

Five new witnesses come forward

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

IT NOW APPEARS that the cheating in the June nursing licensure examination (NLE) was not confined to Luzon but was nationwide in scope, and involved not just two but four subjects of the five-part exam.

Five nursing graduates from Baguio City who took the board exam have come forward to claim that questions in Tests 1 and II—covering fundamentals of nursing practice and maternal and child health nursing, respectively—had been leaked to them.

The ongoing investigations are focused on the leak of questions for Tests III and V.

The five nursing graduates have submitted their affidavits to the National Bureau of Investigation.

This information was disclosed to the Inquirer by Rene Luis Tadle, president of the Faculty Associa-

NURSING A4

Thailand coup leader No. 1 of PMA Class '81

By Fe Zamora

IN FEBRUARY, AMID RUMORS OF A coup plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo, cadets at the Philippine Military Academy were according a very special guest military honors.

Nobody had an inkling then that on Sept. 19, Maj. Gen. Thawip Netrayoon, a top official of the Royal Thai Army and the topnotcher of PMA Class of 1981, would be among the leaders of a coup against Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

During the coup, Thawip commanded the armor unit that surrounded and secured key government and private installations.

He was named spokesperson of the Council for Democratic Reform days

THAILAND, A10

MAJ. GEN. THAWIP NETHAYOM: Is PMA training coup plotters?—is asked in jest.

Esperat killers get life but brains free

By Jolene R. Balanday
Inquirer Visayas
and Armand Nocum

CEBU CITY—IN A DECISION WHICH left the victim's family still hankering for justice, a regional trial court judge yesterday convicted three men of murdering antigraft crusading journalist Marlene Esperat, and sentenced them to a maximum of 40 years to jail each.

Standing before Judge Eric Menchavez, the three defendants showed no emotion as the verdict was read out while silence engulfed the courtroom.

"We are not really happy with the decision. We want the mastermind," said Ryache Garcia Arcanas, 24, a daughter of Esperat from her previous marriage.

Media groups hailed the verdict as a victory for press freedom.

The convicted trio had confessed to the killing, saying they were ordered to

CONTINUED, A6

BUT WHERE ARE THE MASTERMINDS? Escorted by prison guards, convicts Randy Grecia, Gerry Cabayog and Faustino Bienvenido had confessed to being hired killers for ₱120,000.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

SUBJECT: Southwest Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao (northern, north, north, and south central sections) and Kalimantan. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Suspects in bishop's slay fall, but they're no fall guys–PNP

By Alcuin Papa and Tonette Orejas
PDI Northern Luzon

PITY THIEVES | In how police describe the five suspects of the killing of Bishop Ramento. They are Michael Viado, Michael Quindig, Raymar Picnic and Joel Villanueva, seen here

POLICE HAS DECLARED the murder of Aglipayan bishop Alberto Ramento solved with the arrest of four petty thieves in Tarlac.

"This definitely is not a case of political killing," said Senior Supt. Nestor Bartolome, the Tarlac police director who took the suspects to Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame yesterday.

Ramento, 66, a bishop of the Philippine Independent Church and a critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was stabbed to death on Oct. 1 inside his church in Tarlac.

The suspects—identified as Michael Viado, 30, Michael Quindig, 22, Raymar Picnic, 19, and Joel Villanueva, 23—were arrested in a petty robbery case engaged in drug killing, cell phone snatching and swindling (sanla) gone, said Tarlac police chief Supt. Ruele Lacadin.

In a press briefing, PNP Chief and Director General Oscar Calderon said the five suspects did not have any political motive.

"We have not arrested who gave order to the suspects as being in the area at the time the crime was committed. This is not part of the political killings. This appears to be a plain and simple robbery and homicide case," Calderon said.

Calderon said the PNP considered the statement from Ramento's family that the bishop had been receiving death threats over his support for the striking workers of Hacienda Luisita.

"We respect that but this is all based on physical and circumstantial evidence. At the start, we believed in that [the political killing angle], but the only evidence we have shown it was to others," he said.

Bartolome said the arrest of the four confirmed initial police findings that the murder of Ramento was a case of robbery, contrary to claims by militant groups that the crime was "politically motivated."

He said the suspects were arrested after "relentless investigative and monitoring" operations ordered by him and Supt. Pompanga, whose Quindig was caught.

Police were tipped off about Quindig's whereabouts by his own parents who told investigators of their suspicions that their son may have participated in Ramento's murder.

The suspects confessed to killing and robbing Ramento in the presence of a government lawyer, police said.

The suspects said they executed of a plan to rob and kill Ramento when they saw the bishop was a soft target for petty thieves.

Lacadin said police recovered the bishop's ring from a local trader who bought it from the suspects and a DVD player from the suspects.

Bartolome said the four suspects did not have any link with the military, police or communist rebels.

"They either have served terms for theft and robbery or are facing charges for the same," he said.

He said Quindig was the first to be arrested on its spot, Pompanga, on Thursday night.

Information from Quindig led to the arrest of Picnic, Villanueva and Viado, the gang leader, in Tarlac at dawn yesterday. A fifth suspect, who was not identified, remains at large.

Bartolome said the five suspects pointed at each other when asked which one had stabbed Ramento.

They are to be arraigned in Tarlac City for an inquest at the city prosecutor's office.

But in Manila, who claim that Ramento had received numerous death threats from unidentified men had suspected to be military intelligence agents, refused to believe the police announcement that the case was solved.

Military dragnet turns up heat on Indon terror suspects

By Raissa Robles
Inquirer Foreign Desk

JAKARTA: MILITARY OFFICIALS here are spreading a massive dragnet over suspected rebel lairs in the mountainous town of Poso, Indonesia, to capture two suspected Indonesian terrorists wanted for the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

The capture early Wednesday of the wife of a top Indonesian terror suspect in Bohol, Mindanao, has shown that the husband, identified as Dulmatin, and possibly another suspected member of the Malaysian al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) group are hiding in southern Philippines, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro told reporters.

"We believe Dulmatin and his other suspected Indonesian terrorist [Umar Patek are still in Jolo," Bacarro said. "Our troops are tracking them down. We are closing in on them," Bacarro said, adding that military operations will continue until they are captured.

Over 6,000 troops have been deployed to hunt down the terrorists in Basilan and Sulu and Bacarro hinted the special rebels to set up terrorist-training camps and plan attacks.

Washington has also deployed troops to the southern Philippines since 2002 to train and provide logistical support to Filipino forces in the military. US troops also have provided high-tech assistance to track down Indonesian and Filipino militants on Jolo.

Malacañang sees reportedly denied any new developments. "The President is happy that we are moving forward as far as accuracy is concerned," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

The arrest of Dulmatin's wife, Inspector Umar Asnir, still almost certainly runs up the heat on the two suspects, said Ermita, the Cabinet's most senior member.

"It's now that significant efforts being sought by the authorities, I would feel disturbed that someone in his family has been arrested. He can imagine that he is very concerned about what happened to his family," Ermita told reporters.

However, along with the Dulmatin's wife, the military also said was currently detained two children, aged 6 and 10 years old.

Ermita said the Department of Social Welfare and Development was "consulted on how to take care of the 6- and 8-year-old true rules were taken under custody together with their mother."

Military officers also took pains to explain that the family was "not being held for ransom."

In Davao City, Col. Juancho Sabban, Third Marine Brigade chief, said the business that the military was holding Yasin and his young children, is "illegal abduct."

"She is not a terrorist. She did... does are not terrorists," Sabban said.

Yasin is suspected to have illegally entered the country with her husband and other Indonesian terror suspects through the Mindanao backdoor. They were taken into custody during a raid on Bacungan Island, Puttad. Tawi-Tawi government security forces.

Jose Bonifacio, Christine Avendaño, Jaile Alynda in Mindanao and AP reports

JOKE: Not a terror suspect

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320i Executive	Black Sapphire	2005	₱2,870,000	9,670 km
325i	Titanium Silver	2004	₱2,870,000	1,490 km
330 Sport	Arctic	2005	₱3,800,000	11,360 km
525i	Titanium Silver	2004	₱4,100,000	17,800 km
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Palace: Killing RSBS won't stir AFP unrest

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DISMISSED speculations that the abolition of the Home Defense Foundation and Separation Benefits System (HDBS) and its replacement with a new pension fund would stir up restlessness in the military ranks.

"I don't see how there could be restlessness because the move of Department of Defense and the Armed Forces or the Philippines is precisely to stabilize the situation and safeguard the interests of members of RSBS," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters.

The defense department intends to discontinue RSBS on Dec. 31 to prevent the further bleeding of the pension fund and to ensure that soldiers get their contributions with reasonable interest when they retire.

On Wednesday, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon had warned that the RSBS controversy could stir up restlessness among the troops. "Some elements could use this situation toward destabilizing acts," he reiterated yesterday.

New pension plan

Ermita said defense and military officials intended to put up a new pension fund "for AFP (Government Service Insurance System)" to replace RSBS.

As a retired general and a pensioner, he said he did not see any reason to oppose the moving up of a new pension fund for military personnel.

Ermita said when he was still defense secretary, they had explored the possibility of disposing of the real estate assets of RSBS.

"At that time we were told by our assessors it was not correct to dispose of the assets because the prices now are to be beneficial for RSBS and its members."

Asked about whether cases would be filed against those responsible for RSBS' financial woes, Ermita said there were already cases filed against them.

He said the Palace was focus on the pensioner of these officials.

Senators yesterday sought the suspension of the RSBS talks behind the disruption of the pension fund.

"They should tell all those who are responsible for this. It is totally unfair to our soldiers whose pensions are prejudiced by the crimes committed by the management of RSBS. I feel strongly about that," Sen. Franklin Drilon told reporters.

He said the dissipation of the fund was "unfair" to the officers and men of the Armed Forces who have been dutifully contributing a portion of their salaries to the fund in the hopes collecting a bigger retirement when they retire.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. agreed with the plan to abolish RSBS, but stressed that those who made it a "milking cow" should not go unpunished.

"It is time that it be disbanded. But care should be made that we're abolishing it, the officers, some of whom are now charged in court upon the pending of the Blue Ribbon Committee, do not go scot-free and to beneficiaries, especially the soldiers, should be properly compensated," he said.

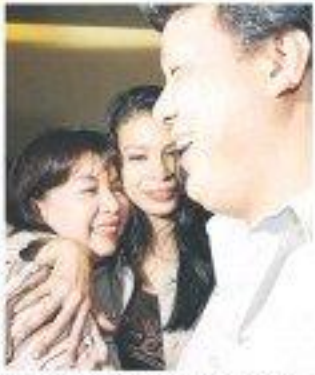
Facing charges

Former RSBS officials led by former AFP chief Lisandro Abadía and retired Gen. Jose Ramon Calderon RSBS president, are facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan.

In 1999, the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, chaired by Pimentel, recommended the prosecution of Abadía and Montenegro for granting behest loans to the tune of P. Forgotten Inc. (AFI) and Multipur Architecture, among others.

Abadía, then Army chief, denied both AFI and Multipur.

The military is closely monitoring the moves, defense officials said.



BACK TO MAMA. Jamie Liz Castillo is welcomed home by parents Jimmy and Beth Castillo. AP PHOTO

RP beauty's Miss Globe misadventures

By Nikko Dizon

A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS happened to Jamie Liz Castillo, the Philippine candidate to the Miss Globe International 2006 beauty pageant in Albania.

She lost her cellphone and some belongings in the dressing room. On the eve of the pageant, she spent six hours untangling the braids of her swimsuit costume and sewing them back on. On her way home, her plane was hijacked and she ended up in Brindisi, Italy, instead of in the arms of her family in Manila.

Castillo was one of the 113 passengers and crew aboard a Turkish Airlines aircraft plane hijacked last Saturday over Greek air space.

Amid all these, the beauty queen relied on her faith and the unwavering love of family and friends to see her through.

Blessed

"I've been praying the whole time. I think I'm blessed having such good parents and very caring friends who actually supported me the whole time while I was having all these misfortunes," Castillo, 23, said at a press conference shortly after arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) 2 yesterday afternoon.

"I realized a lot of people worried about me, a lot of people said, 'My God! This must be the worst this happened—for me to realize that there are a lot of people who care about me,' she said.

Castillo also expressed her gratitude to Albertico Ver, the Philippine consul general in Istanbul, who helped her get a new, albeit, longer flight route back to the Philippines.

"Hearing him tell me that everything was going to be OK was a big comfort after what we went through," she said.

Castillo was met at the airport by her parents, Jimmy and Beth, and her brother, Jordan.

Castillo, the 2003 Mutya ng Pilipinas, was working as a media planner for an advertising agency when she was chosen to represent the country in the Miss Globe International 2006 beauty pageant.

Hijacked

On pre-pageant night, Castillo and another contestant lost their cell phones and some ends inside the dressing room. During rehearsals, the beauty from national costume got entangled. She spent six hours fixing the braids and sewing them back to get the gown ready for pageant night.

She was on her way home, along with other pageant contestants from Singapore, Malaysia and India, when their flight was hijacked by Fabian Mateci, reportedly to protest the upcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Turkey.

Mateci commanded the Turkish Airlines Boeing 737-800, which took off from Albania, to fly to Italy where he later surrendered and freed all 113 passengers and crew unharmed.

Castillo recounted that 15 minutes after take-off, the pilot announced that they had to land in Italy because the aircraft had some technical problems.

They landed at Brindisi airport, where the plane stayed for three to four hours while its lights and air-conditioning turned on and off.

Terror on board

"We had no idea that the plane had been hijacked until one terrorist's passenger, who understood Arabic, finally told that someone had kidnapped us," Castillo said.

She then urged the passengers to sit on the floor and keep themselves safe.

Castillo said she was terrified when the plane went dark except for the emergency lights that lined the floor.

Miss Malaysia, she said, was already crying. "All four of us just held hands. I borrowed Miss Singapore's phone and sent a text message to my family telling them what happened and that I was all right."

When it was over, Castillo said she didn't realize that the man who stepped from the cockpit wearing a pilot's cap and a blue sweater was the hijacker because he even assured the passengers while being escorted out of the plane by the Italian police.

Liquids still no-no on flights

THE AIRPORT AUthority clarified yesterday that it had never lifted the liquid ban imposed last August at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) following the foiled terrorist attack in London's Heathrow airport.

The ban includes liquid and gel-like substances such as beverages, lotions, shampoo, creams, toothpaste, detergents, and other items of similar consistency.

"Passengers are still advised to leave these items in their check-in baggage. If found in their possession at the final screening checkpoint, these items will be confiscated," the airport authority said in a statement.

However, these items will be allowed in hand-carried bags of passengers of all flights, including those bound for the US, if purchased at the duty free or retail shops located in the final screening checkpoint. Nikko Dizon

Palace funding Cha-cha drive–Drilon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE pushed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines is funded by the government.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the Senate finance committee, said this after officials of Malacañang's Office of the Press Secretary admitted during a hearing on its P600-15-million proposed budget for 2007 that funds of various agencies under the OPS are being used for information campaigns on charter change.

During the budget hearing today of the OPPS, it is clear that Sigaw ng Bayan is being funded at least to the extent of P10 million as admitted by the OPS for various expenses for the advocacy of the cha-cha," Drilon said.

Drilon said the use of public funds to advocate charter change is improper, and said the Commission on Audit should determine whether this should be allowed. He said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno admitted in an earlier budget hearing that the use of government funds and personnel by the local officials for charter change is improper.

"To me the expenditure of public funds for charter change is unauthorized and improper," Drilon said after the hearing. But he said the Senate could do little about it because the Department can always vote or restore the amount for charter change campaign if the senators cluttered it from the budget.

Drilon, however, said the use of the OPS funds should convince the Supreme Court that the petition lodged by Sigaw and Lihp is not a genuine people's initiative.

"The Supreme Court should take note that government funds are being used for the advocacy of the Sigaw ng Bayan, which is supposed to be a people's initiative," Drilon said.

The Senate is one of the opponents of the petition which seeks to change the system of government from presidential to parliamentary.

"It's not a secret that the President is in favor of political change through constitutional reform," Presidential Spokesperson and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said when Drilon asked if charter change was one of the advocacies supported by the OPS.

Bunye said that because of the President's open endorsement of charter change, the OPS can promote programs explaining it.

Bunye, however, left it to other officials to answer how much they are spending for charter change campaign.

NBN 4 general manager Jose Isabelo said the government television station had allocated P4.5 million this year and would need another P1 million next year for information campaigns on charter change.

Isabelo said NBN 4's program "The Issue and Say: Cha Cha", aired every Wednesday night, is produced at P80,000 per episode. He said they have finished the first season lasting for 13 weeks and they are now embarking on its second season.

Philippine Information Agency director general Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco Jr. said the PIA has been given P3 million for the information campaign of the Advocacy Commission on Charter Change, which the President created through Executive Order 495. He said the members of the advocacy commission, which replaced the presidential constitutional commission, was to "propagate the virtues of charter change advocated by the President."

Bureau of Broadcast Services Director Rafael Dante Cruz said the charter change program is categorized in the existing programs of the BSE and Radyo ng Bayan.

DILG forms antidrug councils

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND local government has organized 81,655 barangay anti-drug abuse councils nationwide in line with the government's campaign to reduce the incidence of drug use and drug-related crimes at the community level.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said these organized councils already cover 90.22 percent of the department's target of 89,322 barangays nationwide.

"We hope to expand the coverage of our BADACs to 100 percent so that we can tap these councils as effective instruments in our war against illegal drugs," Puno said.

"The anti-drug councils will also pose as eyes and ears only narrowed their involvement in communities to this campaign at the grassroots level," he added.

Puno has enlisted local chief executives to conduct information campaigns on illegal drugs as the barangay level to educate the public on the devastating effects of this social menace and thereby help down the incidence of drug-related crimes in their respective communities.

He said continuing these information drives at the grassroots would help law enforcers, with the cooperation of these affected communities, to pinpoint drug-affected areas and thereby help the government's campaign to making the Philippines a drug-free country by 2010.

Corrections

Maj. Gen. Horacio Tolentino

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino

BY YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT PAGE article—"AFP rebuts Ex-Manila RIMPC bureau execs for freely lost"—misstated the last name of the retired Navy deputy chief of staff for personnel (J1). He is Maj. Gen. Horacio Tolentino—not Romeo Tolentino, who is the chief of the Philippine Army and a lieutenant general.

The same story misspelled the last name of the RIMPC president. His name is Cesar Jayme Jr.—not Cesar Jaime Jr.

+++

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors or writing to the Public Desk Philippine Daily Inquirer 700 Antonio Rivas Avenue corner Alejandro Roces, Makati City, 1st Ave., 897-8700, e-mail: public@inquirer.com.ph

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 7, 2006
Our Lady of the Rosary
1st Reading: Acts 1:12-14
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even Elizabeth, your relative in her old age has conceived a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary:

We find ourselves in the upper room waiting with the disciples, some women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus and his brothers, in obedience to Jesus, praying constantly. The Spirit will come upon them and give them the Church. This experience is an echo of the experience of each believer—like Mary when the Spirit is sent upon her and all of us and the power of the Most High overshadows us and like Holy Children we have to see it as called the Son of God. We walk with Mary, as a disciple of the Word, obeying God's word to us, living in obedience, being in the Spirit, hidden with Christ in God.

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Nursing leak nationwide; 5 new witnesses surface

Paraphrased

tion of the College of Nursing of the University of Sto. Tomas.

"He might actually call for a retake of all the tests. The retake should be for all examinees, not only those tested since her (the then Sto. Tomas dean Thaksa and Mirabanes," Tadlo said in a phone interview.

He later issued a statement saying that the cheating in the June 11-12 nursing exam was widespread and not confined to Luzon.

Entire exam

Tadlo called on Dominican Mamapasal Arroyo to order a retake of the entire exam until he all 98,000 examinees.

"On the basis of the above (information), we call on the President to act boldly and without vacillation in order a retake of Tests III and Test V and, if necessary, on the basis of this new evidence, order a retake of all the five tests," he said.

Tadlo also appealed to Ms Arroyo to order the NBI to open an investigation.

He said: "The NLE was compromised as a result of the leakage; its not compromise it further by **listening** or **influence peddlers** who advocate a no-retake or selective retake just to gain political votes. Retake be all if the only and imperative way to restore the integrity and credibility of the (NLE) as well as all professional licensure examinations in this country.

"We also call for the resignation of all the commissioners of the Professional Regulation Commission who are responsible for this mess and who, up to this time, cling like leeches to their positions."

5 witnesses secured

Tadlo said one of their goals every and an NBI agent traveled to Baguio three days ago after getting wind of the information on the leak of questions in Tests I and II.

He said that the five new witnesses had been "secured," and that their affidavits were submitted last night to the NBI in Manila.

Tadlo quoted the five graduates as saying that they got 50 questions for each of the two tests. He said some leaked questions also appeared in other subject tests.

"Equally important is the fact that the source of the leaked questions was two review centers that are the latest questions gathered by the NLE leakage controversy, but answer sheets have branches or condos but the two review centers are the Visayas and Mindanao," he said.

He declined to name the reviews centers concerned.

Tadlo said the leak was not confined to Luzon because the "only" two review centers cited are in Visayas and Mindanao.

"The well-known review center involved in the controversy has affiliates branches or subsidiaries in different parts of the country," he said.

He said that based on an advertisement that appeared in the Inquirer on July 22, the Cagayan Review Center had produced 35 of the 75 examinees who landed in the Top 10.

Tadlo also said that Cagayan provided a broader review to the Riverside College of Nursing in Bacolod City, which, he noted landed four of its students in the Top 10.

He said Rolando Dimabuyo, the chair of the Board of Nursing that prepared the questions, and one of the dean of Riverside, which got a 48-percent passing rate in the NLE.

Final decision

Tadlo said the leak could be nationwide because Luzon and other review centers had retained all test the country.

Based on the ads, Cagayan has 26 centers, its subsidiary Millennium has 13, Pentagon has ten, and St. Louis has 15, he said.

Mirabanes, which has been criticized for his "flip-flop" stance on the controversy, has ordered the NBI to immediately ramp up its inquiry preparatory to a final decision by the President on the issue of the retake.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said Ms Arroyo and her Cabinet would make the final decision after a special meeting on Tuesday.

He said he expected an announcement to be made on Tuesday or Wednesday regarding the fate of a draft executive order by Labor Secretary Arturo Brion that recommended a retake.

"There is a Cabinet meeting [on] this issue on Tuesday, so we told the Department of Justice to tell the NBI to finish its report by Monday. The NBI will be asked to give a report on the result of its investigation on the leakage [on Tuesday]," Ermita told reporters.

The NBI was scheduled to submit its report over before Oct. 15.

On Thursday, Ms Arroyo met with Ermita, Brion, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and PRC Chair Leonor Tripon Rosero.

"We took a look at the problem again so we can come up with a final solution," Ermita said of the meeting in the Palace.

Asked about Brion's statement on Thursday saying Ms Arroyo had sufficient powers to order a retake without waiting for the ruling of the Court of Appeals on a pending petition, Ermita quoted the labor secretary as saying that his remarks "may have been taken out of context."

"I said him to give a clarificatory statement. That's what I advised him," Ermita said.

But Ermita's disclosure that Mirabanes intended to announce by new event in final decision on the controversy appeared to indicate that officials were not anymore waiting for the CA ruling.

The appellate court had earlier imposed a temporary restraining order on the exam mark-raising of the exam passers.

Gonzalez told the Inquirer by phone that the Palace was hoping the CA would issue its ruling by next week as well.

He said he did not know whether a consensus was reached on a retake, but added that the court ruling or not because he had left the meeting.

But he said he had argued that the Palace should await the ruling before coming out with an opinion, the order.

'Wishy-washy approach'

"I THINK THAT AS A STRONG point, we would rather not defy the CA," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called on Ms Arroyo to "stop playing around with the law" of the nursing graduates who took the board exams.

"The President's flip-flopping on the issue of a retake of the exam smacks of her wishy-washy approach in resolving controversies and her insensitivity to the outside

Esperat killers get life terms; suspected masterminds still free

Paraphrased

murder Esperat because of her exposés on graft and corruption against officials in Mindanao.

One of the accused said they were paid P120,000 for the job.

Shortly after the verdict came down, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, in Manila, ordered state prosecutors to go after the alleged masterminds.

"The evidence shows that Mrs Esperat was murdered because of her crusade against well-entrenched graters in the Cit [Encyclopedia of Agriculture] Regional Field Office 12," Gonzalez said.

Esperat was killed in March last year while dining with her children inside their house in Initan Bridge.

She was the 81st of a total of 158 journalists murdered in the country since democracy was restored in 1986—an ugly record that has earned for the the Philippines the label of being one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists.

'Madame Witness'

Esperat was popularly known as "Madame Witness" because of her media exposés.

It was during her employment in DA Region 12 from 1997 to 2004 that she uncovered evidence against graft and corruption practices by public officials involving rampant misuse of public funds intended for the alleviation of marginalized farmers.

Judge Eric Menchavez, presiding judge of RTC Branch 22, sentenced Sebastian Bernasor (alyas Jun Brown), Gerry Cabuyog and Randy Cerois to reclusion perpetua—or imprisonment of from 20 to 40 years—the murder qualified by treachery.

Cabuyog was found to be the gunman and Cerois the lookout in the operation.

The three had pleaded guilty.

Menchavez also ordered the three to indemnify Esperat's family in the sum of P175,000.

Alleged brains

The judge, however, acquitted Sgt. Bernie Baron, a former member of the 57th Military Intelligence Company, for insufficiency of evidence.

Baron had served as a close aide security for Initrelle Subay, chief DA accountant in Region 12.

Shortly after Esperat's murder, the chief of Intelligence and Detective Group submitted evidence implicating Subay and Ginarlo Montaller, Region 12 chief finance officer, as the alleged masterminds who offered money to the accused gunman for killing Esperat.

They were linked to the murder on the basis of the extrajudicial confessions of the accused.

But Subay and Montaller were later dropped from the case on what the Department of Justice said was a technicality.

In black shirts

Esperat was president of the Region 12 Tri-Media Association, publisher of Midland review and a broadcaster.

She was shot in the head with a .45-cal. pistol around 7:30 p.m. on March 24, 2005 inside her house at Tunlo Subdivision, Brgy. Isabella in Tacurong City.

The three men supposed dismay over the non-prosecution of the two supposed masterminds.

Esperat's husband, her four children and other relatives wore black shirts printed with the words, "Justice for Madame Esperat."

They also wore buttons whose the court handed down its verdict but their comments later showed their dismay.

Masterminds

Husband George Esperat said justice could have been given to his wife had those who ordered the killing been convicted, too.

"It (the decision) isn't good because it was only the hit [who were convicted]. The masterminds [were] not convicted," he said in Pilipino. "I am not naming names but the men who issued the order should have been charged, too, and convicted."

"I feel disappointed ... Those who issued the order should and by be convicted."

Asrears told the lawyers her family hoped the masterminds would be prosecuted and convicted immediately.

Private prosecutor Nena Santos said her team had filed a motion for reconsideration asking it to reinstate Subay and Montaller as among the accused.

The court has scheduled the hearing on their motion for Oct. 10, Santos said.

In a telephone interview, Gonzalez said he had ordered prosecutors to file a motion with the Cebu City Regional Trial Court to reinstate Montaller and Subay in the case.

Something fishy

"What happened was the case against those two were dropped by the judge who later inhibited herself from the case. Something fishy there as you know," he said. "So I ordered the masterminds to be reinstated and as well as other people not yet identified."

Gonzalez said the two were dropped from the case, which was heard in the Regional Trial Court, on grounds of technicality.

But Gonzalez said "evidence adduced during the trial of the three gunmen indicated their direct involvement in Marlene's murder."

Warrants of arrest

"I have also directed the prosecutors ... to ask for the issuance of warrants of arrest so that they can be brought to court for trial. I also directed the Bureau of Immigration to include them in our watch list pending the issuance of an HDO (hold-departure order)," Gonzalez added.

Jose Pablo, executive director of the Philippine Press Institute, welcomed the court's decision and the prosecution's move to get after the masterminds.

Pabla attended the promulgation of the decision.

In his 13-page order, Menchavez said there was no question on the admissibility of the extrajudicial statements made by the three accused admitting responsibility for the crime.

Contact man

Records of the case showed that during the rearraignment, Cerois, Bernasor and Cabuyog withdrew their earlier plea and, instead, pleaded guilty to the crime.

Baron, who later applied as a state witness, executed an extrajudicial statement saying that sometime in February 2005, he met Montaller, a childhood friend, and was introduced by the alleged gunmen Sapakhar Esperat.

In his statement, Baron said he served as the contact supposedly between Montaller group and his boss for the payment of P120,000.

But saying Judge Francis Jr., names A of RTC Tacurong City dismissed the case against the two supposed masterminds.

The prosecution has since asked for a reconsideration of the order of dismissal.

Children testified

In his decision, Menchavez said that there was sufficient evidence that "they deliberately and consciously adopted the means of execution employed by them."

The judge also took note of the misery presented in return for Esperat's murder.

Two of the victim's children, Kevin, 16 and Pharache testified how Cabuyog shot their mother while they were having dinner.

When asked by the lawyers, the three accused said they regretted killing Esperat. They also said they confessed to the killing out of a sense of guilt and hope that the court would be lenient with them.

Press freedom

The National Council Journalists of the Philippines welcomed the verdict.

"It's a victory for press freedom," said NCJP chair Jose Torres Jr.

"We appreciate the immediate action of Secretary Gonzalez to go after the prosecution of the alleged masterminds of the killing," Torres added.

"We hope it would be the start of a serious pursuit for the masterminds of other media killings."

Important victory

The Southeast Asian Press Alliance also cheered the verdict.

"This is an important victory that, if followed through and allowed to create momentum, can hopefully deter the rise of lawless killings in the Philippines," SEAPA executive director Roby Alampay wrote from Bangkok where SEAPA is based.

"There is an environment of impunity that is encouraging attacks on journalists and human rights workers in the Philippines, and without positive developments, such as what we now have in the Esperat case, that climate can only worsen." With reports from Agnes Zenia, Inquirer Mindanao

6 'home-alone' kids die in Taytay fire; parents not allowed to attend burial

Paraphrased

with relatives of some legal worries they couldn't control.

Police officials would not allow them to temporarily leave detention, even with escorts from the national and the local police, because of the absence of [cost] order.

Instead of the usual wake service, relatives were forced to bury the six children within the day, even without Rodolfo and Yen around.

"They had accepted what happened. But the bigger pain was that they did not even see them one last time to say their 'adieu,'" Yen's elder brother, Thong, told the Inquirer after the burial three years ago afternoon.

Yen's two sons by his previous wife and his 13-year-old niece, Jude Lyn, who had been left behind after the children to his and his wife's absence, managed to bolt out of the house unharmed.

The fire that broke out inside the house in Barangay Sto. Ami about 2 a.m. yesterday was ignited by a candle the children used in following a power outage.

Just hours earlier, the children were still watching television. Then power went out.

Night of the fire

Although some houses around the street had electricity, the children decided to go to bed.

Since Yen and Rodolfo were arrested in August, the children went Kamuning and their sister Baby Lyn had been looking after the children.

On the night of the fire, however, Kamuning had to leave for Catabato City.

She left Rodolfo's five children, together with a playmate, on the upper floor of the wooden house.

As usual, before succumbing to slumber from those who survived, the children lit a candle.

Rodrigo, two other sons, 11-year-old Arnaud and 9-year-old Israel, were in the cabin. With them was a family friend, Jessie Pacheco, 27, who was waiting to accompany Kamuning.

Candles and the two boys would have also slept on the upper floor if not for their aunt's scheduled trip.

Kamuning and Candao left the house minutes before the fire broke out. The flames started in the upper room, where the five other children were.

Baby Lyn, who was sleeping on the porch to escape the heat, quickly woke up Arnaud and Israel.

Devouring flames

"The fire was already very big when we woke up. We tried going to the bedroom [on the upper floor], but the stairs collapsed," Israel told his relatives later.

He quickly agreed, devouring the wooden walls and the curtains.

In a futile attempt to put out the blaze, neighbors in the crowded Lupang Arenda neighborhood rushed to scoop floodwater which had formed a pool on the dirt road, spraying it on the house.

The commotion woke up 35-year-old Alaman Dino. Fire quickly seized her. Her youngest and only daughter, Shaneen, was inside the burning house.

Shaneen's mother is a helper for the Israel family and the children were very close to her daughter.

Her husband Sebico, 44, also tried to get inside the blazing house, but the flames had grown bigger.

SPO2 Frank Mariveles said firefighters managed to douse the fire at 3:30 a.m.

The dead are Rodolfo's children—Alaman, 7; Amiel, 6; Mia, 4; Ali, 3, and Alvin, 2—were burned along with Israel's daughter, Mariessa, 9.

Together in death

"These children are very dear to us. They visited me like their own mother," said Marlene, who lived just two houses away. "They would eat lunch in my house. They would ask for my help in their assignments." The dead Alaman, Ahmad and Israel were Grade 1 pupils at the Greenhaven Elementary School while her daughter Shaneen was a Grade 2 student at the Happyvang Elementary School in Brgy. Sto.

Mariners had been preparing for a group hill dance competition, scheduled for anytime this week, should the power supply at the school be restored.

Marlene said she had already prepared a all the meals of sopas—supper which Mariners would use for the contest.

"Nobody will use it anymore," she said.

Covered with white cloth

After the fire, neighbors retrieved dolls, school bags and lunch boxes from the scene.

Children's clothes, blackened with ashes, still hung on the porch, where three children's bikes were also parked.

Inside the house, the six children were brought to the morgue in front of the house and covered with white cloth.

Ahmad and Israel sat outside away as neighbors and classmates took turns in hugging vigil lights and candles to keep the dead children company.

Their bodies, which were burned along with Israel's daughter, Mariessa, 9.

IN THE KNOW

Burial in 24 hours

THE ISLAMIC PRACTICE OF burying the dead as soon as possible is a tradition that goes as far back as the time of the prophet Muhammad, says Dr. Nasher Bin-Ghalib Amilon, dean of the University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies.

Amilon explains that Muslims see no reason to prolong burials.

"When a person dies, his or her spirit leaves the body. The body becomes only a physical shell. Why should it remain unburied?" he asks.

Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, says Muslims usually bury their dead within 24 hours of their passing.

Pramudhan Inscrutable reconciliates the Muslims' desire to reunite with the Creator in the moment possible time," he adds.

Amilon brought Islamic funeral practices very among different countries. Muslims follow the basic traditions of washing, shrouding, praying for and burying their dead.

Muslims traditionally do not embalm the dead, Qur'an Ameshrow, Bayanan Research

Other relatives, meanwhile, would not be allowed to attend the burial.

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Mother's long search ends in shallow grave

By Aessime Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SAN JOSE, NUEVA ECIJA—A MOTHER'S almost four-year search for her missing daughter ended in a shallow grave in a mountain village outside this city.

Tarcila Ramos, 58, wept when she recognized the underwear she once sent with the skeletal remains that were dug up in Barangay Kalikasanggan. She knew it belonged to her 19-year-old daughter, Kathlyn, a student activist at the Central Luzon State University who went missing in 2002.

Ramos, a Cabanatuan City resident, said other items that were shown to her by the Nueva Ecija police crime laboratory "looked familiar."

A rebel returnee who acted as a guide for a group of policemen, soldiers and reporters that went to the grave site recently said Kathlyn was ordered killed by leaders of the communist New People's Army of Nueva Ecija. He said she was suspected of being a military agent because one of her relatives was a soldier.

The grave site, already overgrown with weeds, was in a rugged part of the Sierra Madre mountain range, about 6 km from the city proper, and reached only after a two-hour hike through a winding trail.

Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, commanding officer of the 48th Infantry Battalion, and Supt. Perci Quiborig, the city police chief, who led the military and police team, said Kathlyn was a victim of the Communist Party purges that have targeted suspected government agents in the movement.

The rebel returnee, whose identity is being withheld, said it was he who dug the two-foot-deep grave on orders of the NPA commanders in Nueva Ecija.

Kakilala said it was the rebel returnee's disclosure about the execution of Kathlyn that led them to seek Ramos in Cabanatuan City.

Ramos said she last saw her daughter alive on Oct. 13, 2002. She said Kathlyn had left the house that day without telling her where she was going or who she was going to meet.

She said her daughter was "very secretive" about her activities in and out of school.

It was only later that she learned that Kathlyn had joined the League of Filipino Students, a militant student organization, while she was enrolled at the CLSU in the Science City of Muñoz.

Kakilala said the LFS was a "student front" of the NPA.

Kathlyn was enrolled in an animal husbandry course and was planning on taking up veterinary medicine after finishing her first degree, Ramos said.

"My daughter's only fault maybe was she joined a militant organization to fight for what she thought was right and to help in urging government so our society will improve," she said.

The rebel returnee said Kathlyn was taken by a group of NPA rebels to Gumba, Nueva Ecija, on Oct. 20, 2002.

From Gumba, the group trekked for almost a week through the mountains to reach an NPA camp in Barangay Kalikasanggan here, San Jose City is 40 km from the town of Gumba.

On Oct. 27, the rebel returnee said he was directed by NPA leaders to dig a grave in an area in Kalikasanggan.

He said he saw Kathlyn at the NPA camp when he returned after completing the task.

While he did not see the actual execution, he said he saw the girl being led to the group to the area where he had dug the grave.

The rebel returnee said he learned later that Kathlyn was "executed" by NPA rebels led by Leopoldo Cabica, the former NPA commander in Nueva Ecija.

Cabica, according to military reports, is now a top commander of the NPA in Central Luzon.

The NPA group also included a certain "Ka Jocelyn" and "Ka Jes" and at least 20 other people, the rebel returnee said.

Asked if she would be interested in bringing criminal charges against her daughter's killers, Ramos said: "Bahala na po ang Panginoon sa kanila (Let the Lord deal with them)."

MOTHER'S LANGUISH. Tarcila Ramos of Cabanatuan City (right) identifies the clothing found on the skeletal remains of what appeared to be her daughter, Kathlyn.

5 bullet-riddled bodies found in Tarlac, N. Ecija

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—THE LIST OF victims of mysterious summary executions is getting longer. Five bodies riddled with bullets were found yesterday in two areas at the boundary of Victoria, Tarlac, and Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija.

Three bodies—two women and a man—were found along the Gen. Luis Victoria Road in Barangay Ligtasan, Gabaldon, at about 5:30 a.m. Police identified them as Jenny Egpan of Tarlang, Tarlac City; Aileen Anib of Pagbilao, Balagtas, Bulacan; and Sylla Galimanga of Pinay City.

Dumped about 400 meters away, in Barangay Mangalinga in Victoria, Tarlac, were two more bodies identified as Welfred Pedrasa of Bagong Ilalang, Caloocan City and Isidro Maczar of San Nicolas, Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

The bodies all bore gunshot wounds in different parts of their bodies.

Chief Supt. Ismael Pathanan, Central Luzon police director, said an abandoned Mitsubishi L-300 van was recovered in the area where the bodies were seen. Inside the van, investigators found a sheet of yellow pad on which the five names of the victims were written.

Police are trying to trace the owners of the vehicle. So far, they have found that the van had sunk a Bulilit (cell-on-roll-off) ride from the port of Surigao.

Pathanan said investigators have "no idea as" who killed the victims or why they were killed. Preliminary reports, however, seemed to rule out robbery as cops. Dennis Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon and Alexis Romero

Abrupt ending catches 'Nicole' by surprise

By DJ Yap

THE ABRUPT END ON THURSDAY of the Subic rape case caught "Nicole" herself by surprise, and left her regretting the last chance to be heard again in open court.

"I thought we could still again [on] ground during the rebuttal," she told the Inquirer yesterday, adding that she had prepared herself to take the stand again.

"I thought that if we would be able to answer all their lies, it would help our case. I wished we had more time to strengthen the case," she said.

Nicole's private lawyer Evalyn Ursua said they were "taken aback" when they learned that the state prosecutors had decided to forego the planned rebuttal.

The only factor

Ursua said the move was "overwhelming" for the alleged rape victim and her mother, with the latter disturbed that Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Fe de los Santos had pushed for a settlement with the four accused US Marines, including the rapist-a-day, to migrate to the United States.

"We were scheduled to consult agents Tony Sumeo and Guy Pa-

pageorge of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Services in the stand," Ursua said. "The only factor that changed in the equation was the filing of the affidavits."

The two affidavits filed before the Department of Justice detailed the allegations of Nicole's mother and brother that De los Santos had tried to persuade them to settle the case.

The documents included De los Santos' purported warning that if a settlement was not reached, Nicole's case might be traded off with that of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Sobrepeña, the purported architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam who is now detained in the United States.

Still hopeful

Nevertheless, Nicole, now 22, expressed confidence that the prosecutors had presented sufficient evidence.

"I'm still hopeful that we still win. I don't even want to think about losing," she said.

Ursua said she and her client were left with no more course of action to keep the trial going.

She said they had been considering many scenarios on how to put Nicole back on the stand, while maintaining their position that they had no trust in the state prosecutors.

"They had control over the case. De los Santos excluded us from participating in the [examination of] defense evidence. We weren't even allowed to [cross-examine]," Ursua said, adding:

"If [state prosecutors] are doing a good job, private prosecutors are redundant. But if not, that's when we step in."

Citing the waiving of the planned rebuttal, Ursua said that if the state prosecutors did not want to present Papageorge or Sumeo, "the private prosecutors would have done it for them."

People of the Philippines

In the past, strong by Nicole's accusation that the state prosecutors were incompetent, De los Santos kept on telling that only the plaintiff was no longer Nicole but the people of the Philippines.

But Ursua said yesterday: "They tell us that the complainant is now the people of the Philippines, and not Nicole, who is only a witness. But the question is, who's picking up the tab[s] for the people of the Philippines?"

Prosecutor assails superior for no rebuttal in Subic rape case

From page A1

count the possibility that the decision had something to do with their frayed relationship.

Asked whether she would face the consequences of her decision to oppose the stand of her colleagues, she said: "I am ready. This is all about standing up for what I believe is right. Besides, it's not only the Department of Justice that needs lawyers."

Around noon Thursday

A member of client, the 22-year-old Nicole has been with the DOJ for a year and two months. She had spent five years with the Public Attorney's Office and roughly a year with a private law firm.

Nicole said that the state panel decided on the motion of rebuttal on Wednesday afternoon, and that she learned about it only "around noontime" on Thursday.

In around 12 p.m. Thursday, the Makati Regional Trial Court branch 150 received by fax the panel's manifestation informing the court that it had dispensed with the planned rebuttal.

The document bailed Nicole's signature.

The state panel's decision caused the four months long trial within the same hour, and Judge Benjamin Pozon tentatively scheduled the reading of his verdict on Nov. 27.

Nicole told the Inquirer that she "took offense" at belatedly receiving information on the dropping of the rebuttal, and personally asked De los Santos: "Don't you think we owe it to the complainant to inform her?"

De los Santos, who once called Nicole and her mother "hysterical," purportedly replied: "Yeah" curt.

The state panel had planned to recall to the stand agents Tony Sumeo and Guy Papageorge of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) in light of the testimonies of defense witness Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter.

Smith, accused of raping Nicole on the back seat of a moving van in the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 8, 2005, as Carpenter, and Lance Corporals Dominic Duplessis and Keith Silkwood purportedly egged him on, had told the court that the NCIS "misquoted" his narration of what had happened in the van.

Carpenter had said an NCIS report on his statement on the purported rape took minor deviations from his statement.

According to Gonzalez, the prosecutors believed that the evidence they presented was strong, and thus decided to stick with what they have.

"That was the reason—they have assumed it and they decided to not augment (through the) findings because it might actually do more harm than good. They thought it's OK already. Why disturb it? Why give the defense a chance, another opening, to hit back at you?" he said.

Gonzalez also denied that Nicole had been left out of the decision to waive the rebuttal. "Nicole realized (on) because she disagreed with the assessment of the four [other prosecutors] that the evidence was sufficient. It is not true that she was not part of the decision process. She was there, but she walked out."

Real reason

Nicole said she had spoken with De los Santos because she wanted to know the real reason behind the decision to waive the rebuttal.

She said she even met with Ramos and Papageorge on Wednesday "to prepare them" for their recall to the stand.

"I wanted to give [the other prosecutors] the benefit of the doubt. I wasn't convinced that the reason was they were up to one of my mom [or cohorts]," she said.

Nicole said that when she got wind of the waiver of rebuttal, she was midway in organizing with Ursua on how the panel could refute Smith's claim in the stand in her version of the purported rape, to which Smith had a muddy contradicting narration to resist.

Nicole and her mother had lost her publicly accused De los Santos of "selling out" the interests of the case, and of telling them that the families of the accused were aware of the proposal.

No settlement

De los Santos had denied the allegations. Smith had likewise said he would rather close his case than settle with the complainant.

Nicole had also accused the state prosecutors of "sweetheart" arrangement, and asked Gonzalez to explain them except Valdez. With a report from Armando B. Nicolas

Quality Products

LightBoy

Aimee Braided for Outdoor Ammunition Unit

DEXTERTON

Electricity spot market goes on despite probe

From page B1

calls by business leaders to temporarily suspend the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) until the government can ensure participants of that market trading.

"Don't prejudge, we have to investigate and find out if some one. Let's not preempt the investigation, there are rules and procedures for that," said Lucilla.

The Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), the operator of the electricity bourse, said Thursday that it was investigating PSALM which is suspected of using its 50-percent control of the country's total generating capacity to push price up.

PSALM has denied the allegation which centered on the soaring prices since the spot market was opened in June.

Lucilla said it was too early to accuse anybody of wrongdoing.

He said there was no need to close the WESM while an investigation were a normal part of operations.

"It's just like stock market. Whenever there is a complaint of manipulation, they investigate and deal with it accordingly but they don't close the stock exchange down," Lucilla said.

He said the government was "allowing the processes and mechanisms under WESM rules to take their due course" with regard to the ongoing investigation by the PEMC.

The WESM rules provide for sufficient safeguards and mechanisms to ensure the integrity of the open market operations, he said.

The allegation of price manipulation against PSALM has agitated the business community which immediately rallied on President Macapagal-Arroyo to scuttle the WESM.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said Thursday that no one should in the WESM until he is finished trading would remain under a cloud of doubt.

"It's better that WESM be suspended until the problem have cleared the air," said Chua.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said WESM should remain suspended until the government completes the privatization of the National Power Corp. and sell its transmission and power generation facilities to competing private parties.

The government must privatize Napocor first before it allows the WESM to operate," Concepcion said.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee said energy officials must not sacrifice public interest to make power users rush at the National Transmission Co. "juicy to investors in their bid to privatize the state corporation."

The President had lobbied for the creation of the WESM in hopes that competition between suppliers would enable buyers to choose the best prices.

Lucilla, one of the biggest buyers of power in the WESM is the Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest electricity distributor which sources 45 to 50 percent of its requirements from the spot market, said Lucilla.

Lucilla shrugged off criticisms that suppliers have an unfair advantage and underscored the President's bid to reform the rest of power.

"We are in the learning stage. The President is letting the existing structures take care of the situation," he said.

PEMC president Leon Hidalgonzoa said there would be a full investigation, which started last Tuesday when the scenic was unveiled on PSALM.

He explained that the PEMC's market surveillance team noticed price spikes during the WESM's third trading month (Aug. 26 to Sept. 25). The team was however unable to determine any relevant factor to which the price spikes could be attributed.

This prompted suspicion to fall on PSALM, which controls 50 percent of the total power capacity traded in the market.

Given the huge capacity that PSALM accounted, it had "market power," which could be abused to control prices, explained Hidalgonzoa.

He said PSALM was the "price-setter" when the price spikes took place.

PSALM president Hirono Osorio denied participating in "concerted and deliberate efforts to manipulate electricity prices" by its bus trading teams.

"Bid prices are influenced by several factors, among them the cost of producing electricity, which varies from plant to plant," she said, adding that she welcomed the investigation.

Apart from being mandated to dispose of Napocor's generation assets, PSALM also manages the state firm's independent power producer (IPP) contracts until these can be transferred to IPP administrators.

PSALM thus controls half of the volume reached in the WESM through its bus trading teams. Napocor controls only 29 percent of traded capacity.

Militant groups yesterday rallied for a congressional probe of allegations of price manipulations at the WESM and for the abolition of the electricity bourse.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Manggagawa ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) fisherfolk group said it should be legislators, not the PEMC, that should investigate PSALM.

While the investigation was going on, the operations of WESM and some of PSALM should be suspended, said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap.

He said Congress should not only focus on PSALM but extend the probe to other WESM participants, including 30 power plants and 11 power distribution utilities.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr., for his part, said there was no use for the WESM as it had not lived up to its promise of promoting transparency in the sectors and of bringing down power rates.

Imelda wins graft case; 75 to go

Viewpoint A2

Marcos' executed Jose Conrado "Jolly" Benitez.

After the ruling, Marcos, wearing a purple shirt, a long-sleeve jacket and a silk floral scarf with large jade and diamond earrings, went to the nearby St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue to pray. She later handed out money to street vendors. She was accompanied by Benitez and lawyers Robert Sison and Sesinando Ramos.

Marcos and Benitez, then minister and deputy minister of human settlements, respectively, were accused of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for allegedly pocketing money from housing and realty business transactions through the Technology Resource Center Foundation Inc. which they set up in 1977, while still members of the Cabinet.

It was alleged that Marcos used her influence and business interests in TRCFI when they acted as the foundation's chairman and president, respectively, in alleged violation of the 1973 Constitution.

The court, however, ruled that Benitez "was not shown to have had any participation in, cooperation in, or knowledge of the offense charged."

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos leaves St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Ave. after prayers, following the Sandiganbayan's ruling. She distributed money to street vendors. ALTHEA

Nonstock, nonprofit

The dismissal by evidence, it had "unmistakably established people's principal concerns or occupation basically aimed at addressing human settlement to-

ments. They were undertakings, definitely not for profit but solely for the purpose of gathering funds to satisfy the main purpose of the foundation," the Sandiganbayan said.

Court records showed that the TRCFI, organized in 1977, was a nonstock, nonprofit organization engaged in activities granted reward countryside development, principally through projects in-

volving technology transfer. One such project was an innovation in the breeding of tilapia that was introduced in the communities around Taal Lake and Laguna Lake.

Since the foundation was "nonstock and nonprofit," the court said, there was no conflict of interest when Marcos and Benitez acted as its executive committee while they were still members of the Cabinet.

And while TRCFI made investments in real estate by leasing land and buildings, and selling townhouses, the Sandiganbayan said the money raised did not benefit foundation officials.

No deal

"The essential elements of the offense charged have not been proven as discussed above because the projects in question, not being businesses in contemplation of law," it added in its 38-page decision.

Marcos said her acquittal had nothing to do with any compromise with the Arroyo administration.

"I have always said that I don't want a compromise. I wanted a legal resolution because I believe in the courage and integrity of our courts," she said.

Audit

Marcos also called on the government to conduct an audit on all corporations that were created or were under her Ministry of Human Settlements during the rule of her husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos.

"I ask the Philippine government now only to conduct an audit of the TRCFI, but also my other projects when I was still Minister of Human Settlements," she said in a statement released to media.

"But was the only way to reveal who the "real thieves are," she added.

Marcos, known for her collection of 3,000 pairs of shoes, said that the TRCFI barely had any funds left.

"In 1986 when the late President Marcos and family were illegally and forcibly taken out to a foreign country, the TRCFI [had] about P400 million. Now I was just informed that [it] has hardly any funds left," she said.

"Where did the money go?"

Lucky breaks

Although Marcos faces criminal and civil suits over billions of dollars in unexplained wealth amassed during her husband's 20-year rule, she is not in detention due to hundreds of thousands of pesos in bail bonds.

The 77-year-old widow of the former strongman is also facing hundreds of cases accusing her of illegally transferring millions of US dollars overseas.

Marcos was found guilty of corruption in 1993 when she was sentenced to up to 24 years for her alleged role in anomalous deals involving the construction of a mass transit system in Manila but that decision was reversed by the Supreme Court in 1998.

On her birthday in 1991, a New York court also found her innocent on racketeering charges.

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Gov't loses ₱25-B tax evasion case vs Lucio Tan

Viewpoint A2

dummy corporations to act as buyers of the latter's cigarette products to make it appear that those were sold lower than the actual price.

By employing dummy corporations, Fortune and the nine companies committed evasion of value-added taxes and ad valorem taxes covering the period 1990 to 1992, the BIR alleged.

The tax evasion case was filed in 1992 when Liwayway Vinzons-Chato was Internal revenue commissioner.

9 corporations

The nine corporations, which were also charged in the tax evasion case, include Tenmon Commercial, Landmark Sales and Marketing, Consumer Cardoz Distributors, Dagupan Combined Commodities, Filtri Union Trading Corp., Carl & Sons, Oman Distributors, Carel & Co., and Mt. Mariveles Marketing Corp.

"The court cannot attribute any person, be rich or poor, can be criminally convicted on an extrapolation based on mere assumptions or an individual's imagination, for other wise, the presumption of innocence which is at the core of our criminal justice system would lose its sense of value and sensible attributes," the court said.

The BIR, using articles of incorporation as evidence, said that officers of the alleged dummy corporations were employees of Fortune.

The defense, however, claimed that they were former employees who had formed their own companies.

'Mother of all tax cases'

BIR assistant commissioner Estela Zalsos, who is in charge of the Tan case, said the revenue agency would consider with the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Justice on whether to continue to pursue what has be called "the mother of all tax cases."

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buhay said the agency would consult its lawyers to study whether to file an appeal with the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

Defense lawyer Imelda Mendoza said, however, that the BIR could no longer seek any other legal means to pursue the tax evasion case, as that would constitute double jeopardy.

Under the Rules of Court, the judge's decision to grant a demurrer is final and executory. The prosecution has no right to appeal, nor can they even move for a reconsideration of the order because it will violate the principle of double jeopardy," he said.

Second dismissal

This is the second time that the Marikina Metropolitan Court has dismissed the case. It did so in 1999 but reopened it after the Supreme Court ordered a retrial.

LUCIO TAN: No reversal of fortune

"This tax case started 13 years ago. The road to justice took a long trip. Fortunately, the defense was able to show that the prosecution's allegations were not based on any factual or evidentiary basis," Mendoza said.

Tan, who also controls Philippine Airlines and the Philippine National Bank, is the richest person in the Philippines after shopping mall magnate Henry Sy, with a worth estimated by Forbes magazine at $1.7 billion.

Other victories

Various government since the Marcos regime have tried to punish him for his allegedly lucrative links to the dictator, but with little success.

The exclusive Mr. Intimate has won victories against the government in the lower courts, the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court and the Supreme Court.

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Aussie MPs laud RP strength: Its people

By Michael Lim Ubac

BITTEREST OF AUSSIE PARLIAMENTARIANS for the Philippines' strength lies in its people.

The report by the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to ASEAN (Apex), which visited several of the country's key cities from July to August this year, described the Philippines as "a proud, strong country made up of intelligent and hard-working people at all levels."

It was written by Senator Lyle Alston, leader of the Armed Lubos Bryce, where the delegation found the "true qualities of the Filipino people—generosity, hospitality and great talent."

"We were greeted by the local officials and entertained in a beautiful performance of songs from the international recognized local children's choir," the report said.

The choir's performance was truly world-class and inspiring, it noted, adding, "It is heartwarming for us to observe that a small town in rural Philippines can host such great talent."

It is a "tattoo being a member of challenges but also many opportunities and natural advantages" and added in the issue would be its strength in its people," it said.

The Aussie delegation was impressed by the "renowned reputation of the Philippine people for their hospitality, warmth and genuine concern," and highlighted the need for Australia to take a "greater interest in the democratic process, economic matters and other exchanges that can be thrived between our nations."

The report was signed by delegation leader Senator Rizalli, MP (member of parliament) Federal Member for Oxley and elaborated on the issues of most in the west to more diverse conclusions and once a reminder of the many cultural similarities that exist between nations and peoples."

Love for music

The Philippines' love for music and song was "one of the outstanding and enchanting characteristics" of the nation, a "delightful national obsession [which] is in much part of daily life as eating and breathing."

The delegation also visited Baguio's famous Crocodile Hills and the region's beautiful beaches and resorts. They marvelled at the sight of a tin fan described in the report as "a small, cuddly mammal."

The delegates also appreciated the "open and frank nature" of discussions with local officials and elected representatives.

Tent capital

The report said the Philippines must take the "honor of being among the most prolific users in the world" of SMS (short message service), noting that nearly every person had a mobile phone.

"Of more significance is the fact that SMS has had on the political scene. It is said that in election campaigns, SMS becomes a message send and campaign technique," the report said. "This phenomenon seemed to surprise people having been so free, overwhelmed and was an important issue in the other countries and elections that were going on around us."

The delegates also praised Philippine food and hospitality saying: "Whether working or you, the Philippine people pride themselves in their culinary skills, their generosity and their open, warm nature of guests."

"If anything can be said about the Philippine people it's their ability to be happy," the report said.

Builder Bjelli, members of the delegation were David Anthony of the Office of Kevin Rudd, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and International Security; George Lennon of the Office of Senator Gary Humphries; Tim Singh of the Office of Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp, Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport; Jane Templeton of the Office of David Hawker, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Cathryn Hood, Councilor, Brisbane; Ian Bruce, Councilor, Brisbane; Ian Bruce, Councilor, Brisbane; Ian Bruce

Darrin prepares to dock at the South Harbor on). the Darwin is involved in a monitoring training with currently negotiating a Status of Forces ego-scale joint military exercises.

THIRD WORLD NAMBOAS: Australian cadets observe cadets of the Philippine Military Academy simulate unarmed combat and close-in tactics on Thursday, as part of an exchange program between the PMA and the Royal Military Academy of Australia.

Aussie, PMA cadets engage in mock combat

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Australian cadets engaged their counterparts at the Philippine Military Academy in mock combat on Thursday to check the mettle of the institution that has produced a Thai coup leader.

Maj. Gen. Thawip Senivasa topped the PMA "Sinadyang" Class of 1981—his graduation in the bloodless September coup in Thailand has become the subject of good-natured joke among Filipino officers and cadets.

"They'll stop sending us foreign cadets because we train coup planners," an officer said in jest. He was also referring to certain PMA graduates implicated in destabilization efforts against the Arroyo administration.

Another leader of the Thai coup, Lt. Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, is a member of the PMA "Maglilas" Class of 1976.

The PMA has been actively upgrading its defense cooperation programs with other Asian countries because, as its superintendent, Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Bañaga, said on Thursday, "our soldiers will fight side by side with soldiers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which has become a strong economic alliance in this part of the world."

Defense program

The visit here of the Royal Military Academy of Australia cadets—Michael Colleen, Nathaniel Gerhardt, Thomas Meade-Georgiou, Joshua Porter and Alexander Stobbs—was sponsored by Australia's defense cooperation program.

According to Mañgaing, six 19-year cadets have been posted for training in Australia under the program. Capt. Ashwe Tolliares, wife of Magdalo leader Lt. Antonio Trillanes, is also completing a master's degree in human resource management courtesy of the same program.

Mañgaing said that in the past, the PMA drew the interest of other Asian military academies because of its modern training methods.

Cadets from Thailand and Singapore enrolled at the PMA between 1960 and 1986. The PMA terms, the official alumni yearbook, listed four Thai and seven Singaporean graduates during that period.

But the extent of global terrorism has prompted many of Asia's military academies to develop their own training methods based on each country's specific needs, Mañgaing said.

As a result, fewer foreign cadets have enrolled at the PMA, and Singapore has stopped sending its students, he said.

Mañgaing also said Malaysia had made advances in its military curriculum.

"But there are not changes to military tactic courses because academies like the PMA have shifted their focus to building leadership, instead of just combat qualities, to training cadres," he said.

Asean flag

Most of these academies are now offering parallel courses to enable them to work under an Asean flag, according to Mañgaing.

"This is why Australia has been interested in connecting with the Philippines. It needs to be part of the Asean alliance. I won't be surprised if we get cadet partnership arrangements with China very soon, because we have good ties with that country," he said.

The United States is also thinking of a faculty exchange program with the PMA, as part of its commitment to Asia's antiterror campaign, he added.

A FILIPINO cadet scales a rope ladder during an exercise with Australian cadets at the PMA grounds in Baguio this week.

Thailand coup . . .

From page A1

lister by the coup leader, Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin.

But at the Class of 1981's 25th reunion in February, Thawip appeared to have been celebrator of political issues brooding his government. In fact, politics seemed farthest from his—or his classmates'—mind.

"We gave away silk neckties to the men and silk scarves to the ladies," Thawip's recent (classmate), Senior Supt. Alex Paul Montesgudo, recalled in a phone interview.

Montesgudo, the police provincial director of Sorsogon, said the reunion was made their own most special by the presence of Thawip, one of three foreigner alumni of the class and the highest-ranking.

Exchange program

Thawip, a government scholar at a Thai military school, enrolled at the PMA in April 1977 under an exchange program of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

His classmates at the PMA were told the rank of colonel in the Army and Air Force, and its equivalent rank of captain in the Navy and senior superintendent in the Philippine National Police.

In honor of his outstanding achievements in the Royal Thai military, Thawip was accorded special military honors by the PMA cadets, according to retired Col. Nestoras Legaspi.

Legaspi described Thawip—Al as his mistake—as a "nice, bright guy."

He said Thawip excelled in academics, was neither a loner nor a nerd, and was a pleasant companion ("Masarap sigong kasama").

Said Montesgudo: "If we got 98 in a subject, he got 100. If we got 100 in another subject, he also got 100. He was really that good."

If their classroom efforts were dull, Montesgudo said, the rest of the class would still be struggling to learn the game his Thawip was already "like Tiger Woods."

The Thai cadet also excelled in soccer and badminton. But he amazed his classmates even more with his "fairly good" command of the English language.

They would find out later that Thawip spent a year learning English and "acclimatizing" in Manila in 1976.

Ateneo de Manila

In preparation for his enrollment at the PMA, Thawip studied English at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

He shared a room at the Grotto Hall, the on-campus dorm for male college students, with Quintin Doromal Jr., the eldest son and namesake of the former president of Silliman University.

According to the elder Doromal, Thawip joined the family during holidays and was for all intents and purposes a foster son.

"He used to bid him, 'If you top the class in PMA, you will be Steve's godson graduation,'" Doromal recalled.

After Thawip entered the PMA, the Doromals often traveled to Baguio to visit him.

And in one of his trips to Thailand as Silliman president, Doromal said, he got to meet Thawip's father (a retired police colonel), mother and other family members.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Deaf

WE SEE THAT THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION'S allies in Congress have joined the chorus of apologists making excuses for the Ombudsman's unexpected exoneration of election officials involved in the anomalous Mega Pacific contract. That should set the administration's alarm bells ringing; the last thing they need is more proof, complete with scripted statements, that Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's Sept. 27 resolution was decided on partisan lines. But we are afraid that the administration has already turned deaf—or simply does not care about public opinion anymore.

EDITORIAL

There is no mistaking the leitmotif of the concert of exonerations: the usual suspects are making the usual noises, and that giant rustling sound you hear is the sound of congressmen and spokesmen turning the pages of their prepared scripts.

The striking point we are easy to detect: the difference between a civil case and a criminal case (with its higher standard of evidence); the repetition of certain passages from the Supreme Court's January 2004 resolution, which direct the anti-graft agency to determine criminal liability "if any" in the Commission on Elections case; the continued insistence on the alleged failure of any of the complainants to attend the Ombudsman's 12 hearings conducted in July and August this year; our letter, the oft-repeated plea to read the Ombudsman's Sept. 27 resolution itself.

We can expect the decibel level to rise even more, when Gutierrez finally secures to the country on live personal television defend the resolution. All this noise, however, obscures the essential fact: the office of the Ombudsman, too, has turned deaf.

It failed to hear exactly what the high court said, when it voided the P1.3-billion contract for automated counting machines. The language used in the Court's January 2004 decision is unmistakable. Perhaps the Ombudsman has a problem with the Court's enunciation?

Listen.

In the very first paragraph, we hear: "the Commission on Elections approved the assailed Resolution and awarded the subject Contract not only in clear violation of law and jurisprudence, but also in reckless disregard of its own bidding rules and procedure."

In the third: "Because of the foregoing violations of law and the glaring grave abuse of discretion committed by Comelec, the Court has no choice but to exercise its solemn 'constitutional duty' to void the assailed Resolution and the subject Contract."

And that's just from the introduction to the majority opinion. Elsewhere we can hear other loud murmurs of disapproval: "Furthermore, Comelec and its officials concerned must bear full responsibility for the failed bidding and award, and hold accountable for the electoral mess wrought by their grave abuse of discretion in the performance of their functions." And: "It is clear that the Commission further denounced the law on public bidding by permitting the winning bidder to change and alter the subject of the Contract." And: "At this point, the Court stresses that the essence of public bidding is violated by the practice of requiring very high standards or unrealistic specifications that cannot be met—Like the 99.9998 percent accuracy rating in this case—only to water them down after the bid has been awarded. Such scheme, which discourages the entry of prospective bona fide bidders, is in fact a sure indication of fraud in the bidding, designed to eliminate fair competition."

A sure indication of fraud. Destruction of the law. Grave abuse of discretion. Clear violation of the law and jurisprudence. Glaring grave abuse of discretion. Reckless disregard of its own rules. (Other equally loud rumblings can be heard in the two well-written, well-argued dissenting opinions.) And yet the Office of the Ombudsman did not hear any of this: in serene silence, it reversed its June 30 resolution and dismissed the pending criminal complaints "for lack of probable cause."

That is what happens when the singuids of broken laws goes unheard; when those who should heed the public's outcry pretend they cannot hear, or are in fact no longer capable of hearing. For the deliberately deaf, the Mega Pacific scam, the atrocious anomaly which cost the government over a billion pesos and set back election reform by a decade, is the perfect crime.

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Jointly or separately?

SEPARATE OPINION

Jaggoot A. Cruz

BEFORE THE CURRENT HEARINGS ON THE Cha-Cha, the Con-Ass, and the Con-Con (three trivial denominations involving no less than the fundamental law of the land) demanded that the members of the Senate and Congress, I made it clear in my students in Constitutional Law I that the 1987 Constitution can be amended or revised directly by Congress by a three-fourths vote of all its members or by a constitutional convention to be called by a mere majority vote of all the said members, provided that if they cannot make up their mind, the Constitution shall be submitted to the people by a majority vote of also all the said members of Congress. A third method of proposing amendments only may be done through the initiative, which is the subject of the much-awaited decision now being studied by the Supreme Court.

I noted that the pertinent provisions in Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVII was likely to cause some confusion in the future because of the ambiguity on how the required votes of Congress were to be determined. Does the phrase "all the Members" of Congress refer to the totality of the Members of the Senate (as part of the House of Representatives voting jointly or should the required votes be based on the respective members of each chamber voting separately?

The House of Representatives is arguing that the provisions should be interpreted literally according to their ordinary meaning unless unbecoming as required by a well-known canon of legal hermeneutics. Such a view will enable it to canvass the members of the Senate any time should they participate in such voting or refuse entirely to do so. The Senate, for its part, believes that the said provisions should be interpreted according to the intent of the framers of Congress, which requires the two chambers to act together, but independently of each other so that their respective wills may be known the question of calling such conventions first.

"Who the custodian of the phrase 'voting separately' deliberate or a mere oversight?

Consequently, the Sen. Vs. Hse. 20-to-1 withdrawal to apply to the concurrent features. Perchance, continues to require "the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress" to a law granting a tax exemption. Art. VII, Sec. 4 provides that a tie in the presidential election shall be broken by a majority of all the Members of both Houses, voting separately. Sec. 8 requires the nominee to a vacancy in the Vice-Presidency to be confirmed by "a majority of all the Members of both Houses voting separately." Under Sec. 18, the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus may be revoked or continued by the Congress, "voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its Members." Under Sec. 19, the President is empowered to grant amnesty "with the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress," without indication of whether they should vote separately or jointly."

Of course, we have the familiar rule in Art. VI, Sec. 23(1) that "the Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war." But the members of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 did not exercise similar care in determining whether the two Houses should vote jointly or separately in amending or revising the 1987 Constitution.

All the brilliant framers did was copy the corresponding provisions of the Constitution of 1973 that established a unicameral legislating Parliament that could naturally vote only jointly. If they had to simply copy as they could have more time to provide for how, quorum, adjourning and other details usually found in their lengthy counterparts, they should have used the Commonwealth Constitution as their tool of instead of the Marcos decree.

ALTHOUGH I DIED IN MY HEART I KNEW IT would not happen, still I heaped against hope that Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez would live up to the requirements of her job as protector of the people from the acts or omissions of government officials that are, according to the Constitution, illegal, unjust, improper or inefficient. That's what she promised, and I have the newspaper reports to prove it.

Well, it is clear that while she could talk the talk, she cannot walk the walk. Worse, instead of facing the Filipino people to explain, defend her decision to dismiss everyone involved in that illegal election automation contract (covering securities division), she chose to flee to Switzerland to attend some meeting and left her underlings to bear the music.

Am I being harsh? I don't think so. Her unorthodox exit that she approved the recommendation of her panel on Sept. 27 (I don't know when those were submitted to her). She left on Sept. 30. In other words, she had all the opportunity to make the announcement herself, and if push came to shove, she could have let someone else sign. How dare do the Filipino people have to play second fiddle to a trip to Switzerland?

Gutierrez is a terrible disappointment.

But there is no reason to fall into a black despondency. This setback to the effort to institute electoral reforms, which are the cornerstone for steps in good governance, is already being addressed with legal moves to right the wrong.

In the meantime, let us dwell on more positive developments which are heartening enough to keep us going in the struggle to a better "tomorrow."

There is the Government Infrastructure Study Unit that took place three days ago. But this for me itself was a heartening development (history are a dime a dozen). What was heartening about this one, which expanded on Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's support-rejuvenate campaign, was that the government agencies involved, and the "champions" for each of the as-per-regions, had done their homework and had done it well. They presented a profile of the regions and the roles that each plays in the overall economic picture. They listed the projects in their respective areas and gave project costs. They had the schedules all worked out. And finally, they identified the sources of financing for these projects.

In other words, it seems that in this case, the government knows where it wants to go, how it is going to get there, and in what way the private sector can participate—all these couched not in motherhood statements but with specific details worked out. This is pretty impressive, because it serves as surely, inspiring a tremendous amount of contagious cooperation.

The only major shortcoming I have point out is that there seemed to be no discussion about how they would avoid the causes of delay that have bedeviled government infrastructure projects, which have resulted in ruined cost estimates (remember the cost overruns in Subic and tunnel projects). Nevertheless, what was presented at that forum speaks well of the government's commitment to growth and development. One thing is sure. If the government does walk this walk, it will lay the groundwork for a stronger and more sustainable growth path.

The second heartening development, which caused the eyeroundabout, is the improving fiscal picture of the economy. The two percentage point increase in the VAT (from 10 percent to 12 percent) at the beginning of the year is the major contributor here, and while once a net note that the tax effort rate will indeed improve by an additional P80 billion, as Finance Secretary Gary Teves expects (the OP School of Economics study estimated that what was needed was closer to P 120 billion), the fact is that there is now more money for development projects. Moreover, investor confidence seems to have returned—it spoke, in sense by the robust spreads that the Philippines has to pay for its borrowings from abroad (from about seven percentage points over the base to less than two).

You want more good news? There is the drop in the inflation rate in September to 5.7 percent (easy inflation: 5.3 percent). It is a heartening development, because our economic managers have kept a lid on inflation, even as our monetary authority has managed to keep interest rates down. Inflation may rise in October as a result of typhoon "Milenyo," but that should not detract from the improvements in price stability. Milenyo, after all, was not man-made, and it is man-made disasters that kill us.

Now that I do not include the appreciation of the peso as a heartening development. That is because a change in the exchange rate is a two-edged sword. The "strengthening" peso encourages imports and discourages exports. Among those who benefit are importers, the consumers of imported products, the government (the peso value of the interest and amortization of dollar-denominated loans is lowered). Those who are disadvantaged are the exporters (do you have them yelling?) and other dollar earners, such as our overseas Filipino workers. Whether the net effect is positive or negative has not yet been determined. But there is every indication that economic point that their currency is undervalued than overvalued.

Now if only Malacañang would stop shilly-shallying and stand firm on its decision for a nursing exam retake, that would add to the good news. But would unemployment go up more than the latter disappointment and the reform setback that the ombudsman's decision represents.

Positive news

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Retake in two subjects is in order

I SEEK A DEGREE OF PROFESSOR IN LABOR Secretary Arturo Brion about Balita.ph says, "Bakit ba ang hirap-hirap ng Bar exam?" Brion, a graduate of the University of the Philippines in the Iconic Learning Board exams, which have been found to be tainted by a leakage of the questions, he was quoted as replying that if the Office wants to let the Court of Appeals to resolve the case, it would rather leave matters as they are and let them be resolved by the Supreme Court. Brion is pressing for a resolution of the case with the Palace judges to ask the Justice to at least meet on tentative justice of the Court of Appeals, and he noted that how shortly the justice system works in this country. The Palace should settle the results of the two subjects.

* * *

It retaker of the two subjects is strongly recommended by the Philippine Council for Nursing Reform (PCNR), a prestigious association of nursing leaders in the academic and service institutions. PCNR leaders have a number of allegations that the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Secretary for Exams examiners inasmuch as the leakage was detected in Baguio and Manila, retakers remain the day before the exams, but that this would not be enough for Mindanao. PC-NR President Ana Isaac "influenced" in exams by the University of Sto. Tomas, since its members were originally in that school. UST, under Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, former chair of the Commission on Higher Education, is the first to insist on retaking the exams if the integrity of the nursing profession is to be preserved. It's truly in order.

* * *

I was one of some during the celebration of South Africa's National Women's Day last August, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of Pretoria women on 10 August to protest the extension of the Union buildings in Pretoria, the seat of government, to oppose the pass laws, which were in the Orlando Area Bus. This date was aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women as a way to stop migrating there, as they were already moving to cities in search of jobs. Some 20,000 women of all races and from all parts of SA marched to the Union buildings in Pretoria, the seat of government, to present a petition against the pass laws

Meaning of Ombudsman's decision on Comelec case

LETTERS

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE OMBUDSMAN's decision to absolve Comelec and Mega Pacific officials from all criminal and administrative liabilities in relief the Supreme Court had ruled to be an illegal contract.

Since the decision favors four influential people, just to clarify high-government officials, can sign illegal contracts and commit "grave abuse of discretion" with total impunity? What happened to the Supreme Court's decision—that the "illegal, legitimate and hasty actions of the Commission [on Elections] have not only threatened legal and jurisprudential norms, but have also cast serious doubts upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections? Truly, the glib and soul of democracy—credible, orderly and peaceful elections—has been put in jeopardy by the illegal and gravely abusive acts of the Comelec."

The Ombudsman were beyond the Supreme Court's decision in declaring the Comelec officials even of an administrative charge and inexplicably backtracked on his earlier recommendation to prosecute the four guilty Comelec officials if also went against the findings of its field investigation officer.

It is interesting to know what the high court's reaction would be. Maybe, it's also time to elevate the Ombudsman's records.

—KARIN CASIPLE,
executive director,
Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER), 14-C Hippodromo apartments, Teachers' Village, Quezon City

Angelika Mariano, not Susan Reyes

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO CORRECT THE name of the child who was with a Submarian in a front-page photo of the business's Oct. 5 issue. The child's name is Angelika Mariano, not Susan Reyes, as stated in the caption. A related story ("Makan celebrates World Pet Day") was featured in the Metro section.

Though it is not a paid advertisement, may I request for the change of the correct name of the child in the newspaper.

—SHORELAC MARIANO,
mother, senior trade and industry development specialist, Department of Trade and Industry

I am the photographer who covered the Oct 5 Jet Ski celebration last Wednesday. It was a mistake on my part and I sincerely apologize.

—REM LAMELA,
PDI photojournalist

June '06 nursing board exam and May '04 election

AMONG THE REASONS TO SUSPECT THE NURSing board exams is missed, if we're talking about integrity—of the exams—or, perhaps, the integrity of those students who have benefited from the leakage and won a review, then by all means, they should take the exam by themselves.

For those who passed the exam through honest means, we can rest assured their peers for the exams, worked hard—during the review and then such a honestly I think our integrity, credibility and our competence as nurses are still intact. I really don't see the word "review" as the only means to save this thing called "integrity."

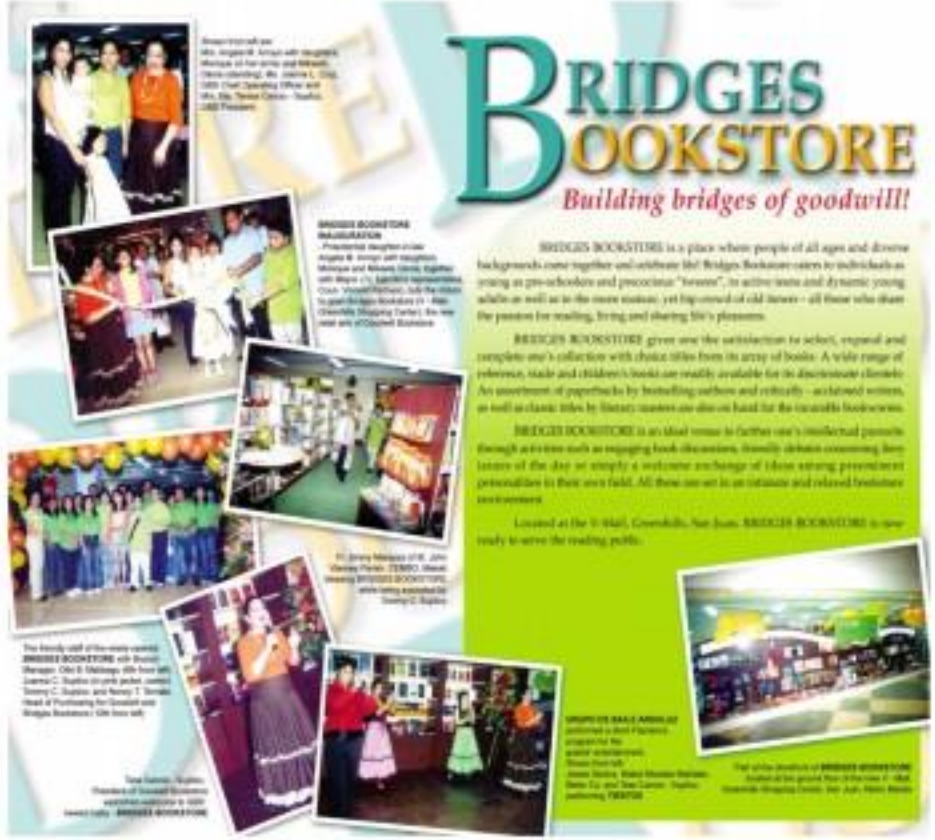
The investigators already know the exact places where the leakage happened. I guess the best way to resolve this case is to have the "review" only in those places where the leakage occurred.

Many of us need to support our families. Because of this, some of us have already applied for a job as call center agents. This kind of work isn't even our field. Also, most of the bar passers in Cebu and in Mindanao don't accept this year's board passers. Why? is it because of the leakage?

Nursing graduates are fast becoming paranoid. They know for a fact that the leakage took place in just a few places, not in all exam sites. So why is the Professional Regulation Commission giving us a hard time applying for work in hospitals? I do think the review is unfair to those who passed without cheating.

Finally, to ordering the results, President Macapagal-Arroyo has shown that she doesn't tolerate cheating. I just hope she has the same mind-set about the 2004 election. If we must take the tests again, then voting should be a measure of the votes will just be fair, so rise and erase all doubts about the legitimacy of the country's highest public official.

—LEONEL FEE,
leonel_pee@yahoo.com



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Oil spill spread to Tubbataha feared

CORRIDOR
Relatives of the passengers of a jeep who died when the vehicle was swept by strong river currents in a village in Ighara, Bulig prefer to accompany their dead loved ones at the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital with a view of the dead wept as she and the other relatives lit candles at the riverbank.

By Norman Bordadora

AN EXPERT ON MARINE ECOLOGY YESTERDAY called on all concerned sectors to immediately contain the remaining oil in waters off Guimaras as the ocean currents are expected to shift directions in the coming weeks.

Ocean currents shifting from its southward to northward direction and vice versa will likely result in the remaining oil going toward the biodiversity-rich area of the Sulu Sea, including the Tubbataha Reef.

"The oil spillage must be stopped before monsoon winds change and drive the micro-mineral laborers to the Sulu Sea," said Wilfredo Licuanan, chair of the De La Salle University's department of biology.

In a news conference in Quezon City, Licuanan said the government's decision to siphon out the oil from MT Solar 1 in December might be too late with the onset of the northeast monsoons in the coming weeks.

Licuanan said that if the siphoning starts toward the end of the year, it may only be finished by February. February is the peak of the northeast monsoon across the archipelago and its waters.

"The problem is greatly complicated by the depth at which it is found. The ship might be at risk to the sinking of going toward the biodiversity-rich area of the Sulu Sea, including the Tubbataha Reef," he said.

The Sulu Sea and the Tubbataha Reef are one of the focus of the country's drive to marine life. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has declared the reef a world heritage site.

Licuanan said a simulation they did with type of fish showed that particles released from Guimaras on a northeast monsoon would pass Negros and end up at the Tubbataha and Balabac reefs in about 90 days.

"What we did was passive dispersal: Eggs of fish would not swim, as well as the oil slick," he said.

He said that oil continues to leak out of the sunken ship in the Iloilo seabase.

ROUNDUP

Fishers warned: Sanctuaries or boats!

Typhoon kills 2 in Maguindanao, Lanao

2 cop chiefs sacked over 'jueteng'

Dengue search-and-destroy operations

Phivolcs: Taal back to normal

Enjoy parenting, attend a retreat

Nearly all Albay schools damaged by 'Milenyo'

Photojourn course launch set

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: [illegible]

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Senior Chief Editor Edralyn L. Benedicto

Oil spill photos: Beauty in destruction

By Ms. Dodo Lubaton
Iloilo City

BY THE END OF THE EXHIBIT ON Oct. 9, the 150 photographs on the oil spill in Guimaras have drawn hundreds, who would perhaps feel sorry for those affected or be enraged by the destruction.

The photographs were taken by members of the Photographic Society of Iloilo (PSI), a hobby group of 30 years, now led by Dr. Rhilbee Reyes.

Thirteen members joined the photo safari in Guimaras more than three weeks after Aug. 11, the day when MT Solar 1, carrying more than two million liters of bunker oil, sank off Guimaras, spewing some 220,000 liters of bunker oil.

They have shared a lot but also saw much.

In the days the PSI members were in Guimaras, the coastal communities were busy with the clean-up, the cleaning and the collection of sludge, spread gone was the thick, black blanket of oil that smothered hectares of mangroves and seagrass beds, and smeared rubber-necked livelihood on populated areas. The clean-up had restored some sunlight's shades of the disaster and prepared the place for a presidential visit due on the fourth week.

But the photographs revealed what culprits of the disaster would rather not have shown. Frames captured the dying mangroves, their leaves blackened with bunker fuel.

Fishing boats remained beached and covered by oilfed coconut fronds.

Scrubbed of wiping had removed the black stains off the beach rocks that now form a peculiar texture when photographed in available light.

Irony

Reyes said those lies the irony in their photographs.

"The challenge is how to represent the ugly but still be artistic about it," he said.

The exhibit also meant to educate the viewers on the ill effects of the oil spill on the coastal environment and people.

Reyes said that many foreigners only heard and read of the oil spill in Guimaras but never saw it first hand. Their photographs can speak a thousand words.

The 8 x 10-inch digital prints have marks of first-rate artistry in decorating their compositions.

Carlos Garcia, who is part-oldtimer, father, said they did not sit, brush and manipulate the photographs. They worked like photojournalists, what they saw is what the viewers would also get.

The images were powerful.

Two young men, who saw the pictures said they could almost smell the bunker fuel even if they haven't been to Guimaras. Others were seen shaking their heads as they contemplate the magnitude of the disaster.

The photographs have neither colours nor commentaries. The latter was reserved to artist Alma Rosca who said, the exhibit gives a "guilty pleasure of irony... of finding aesthetics in destruction... of seeking heaven out of black shores, of trying to decipher humanity in cruel and stupid acts."

PSI members also show photos of themselves shooting people, objects and landscapes, giving the public an idea of how they work, coined here alternative, iconoclasts are.

The photographers are among the groups that visited Guimaras in the wake of the oil spill.

There were also photos of Army soldiers with their fatigue dresses, volunteers and many locals who were paid to help in the clean-up operations, some of them were made to wear yellow shirts, emblazoned "Light Guimaras," courtesy of Petron Corp., who hired the ill-fated oil tanker to ferry the bunker fuel.

Aside from Reyes and Garcia, other members of the PSI included in the exhibit are Raul Sr. Bagolcon Jr., Theresa Jocsoffin Robles, Jun Ongkiangka, Ms. Rosario Martinez, Daisy Canapar Cabrera, Antonio Rojo, Vicente Palo, Alden Lim, James Tolentino and Rod Valera.

The group plans to return to Guimaras to visit the islands that were also affected by the oil spill.

The exhibit, now in a mall in Iloilo City, will travel to schools, in other malls in the city and the upcoming national convention here of physicians.

MANGROVES uncovered by bunker fuel contrast with the lush green mangroves.

The exhibit gives a 'guilty pleasure of irony... of finding aesthetics in destruction... of seeking heaven out of black shores, of trying to decipher humanity in cruel and stupid acts."

SCHOOL children viewing the exhibit.

MEMBERS of the Photographic Society of Iloilo (PSI)

Paraplegic radio man sues city vice mayor

DUMAGUETE CITY—A LOCAL RADIO broadcaster filed harassment charges against Vice Mayor Helen Peralles after the official allegedly threatened him inside his station's booth.

Melmar Marmeto, 40, announcer at radio station dwEG, said Peralles barged into the radio booth and threatened to hurt him while he was doing his program on Sept. 22.

Marmeto, a paraplegic, has been criticizing Peralles in his program for fabricating issues against Mayor James Cardoso Jr.

The row between Marmeto and Peralles worsened after the broadcaster accused the vice mayor of pressuring him from reviving the city council's session hall recently.

Peralles said the attack prompted him to go the radio station and ask Marmeto to give him the chance to tell his side on the issue.

In his affidavit submitted to the prosecutor's office here, Marmeto quoted Peralles as telling him: "Akon mo, as soon na ito ay gaute na kining asenkile, ilantsamo ko ang ulo mo. Dili ka na lang dri like punching you as this moment. You will have a coming)."

Marmeto, who said he was not apprised of Peralles's presence in his booth, refused to give in to the vice mayor's request. Marmeto said Peralles left after he left prosecutor's office here.

He said Peralles had not been invited to his program and would not be accommodated for an interview.

"I have so much job assurance/security in mind and we cannot exclusively allow the vice mayor to tell on air," Marmeto said in his program. "No one can threaten or frighten me."

Peralles could be subpoenaed the case but denied Marmeto's allegations.

"I went to the radio station to give my side of the story but I think it was misinterpreted," Peralles said. "I even carried him to his wheelchair."

Peralles also dismissed the allegation that he had pressured Marmeto from reviving the council's session hall.

"I was, in fact, the one who asked one of my personnel to let him (Marmeto) in. I have nothing personal against him," he said.

He said the harassment case filed against him was politically motivated and was part of a "demolition job."

"I have never been engaged in any quarrels with members of the media. I just wanted the truth to come out now because this issue has gone out of proportion," Peralles said. *Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon*

RECYCLING FIRM

DENR raids Quezon toxic waste plant

SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA—THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the temporary closure of a company engaged in the recycling and disposal of hazardous waste on suspicion that the toxic wastes that were found dumped in Quezon province last week originated from the plant.

Roberto Hilario, regional director of the DENR-Environment and Management Bureau in Southern Tagalog, served the cease-and-desist order yesterday to an official of the Clean Earth Solutions International Inc. (CESI) in Barangay San Antonio I, this city.

The team, led by Environment Undersecretary Roy Ayambao and agents of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF), "Tanggol Kalikasan" (TK) staff, local environment officials, police and media, padlocked the gate of the compound.

The company was suspected of violating the Clean Water Act (Republic Act No. 9275) and the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 (RA 6969), he added.

A company official, who introduced himself as engineer Salvador Llave Jr. and a technical manager of the plant, said his company did not violate any law.

He was evasive in answering media queries regarding CESI operations. "We will explain everything during the scheduled technical conference," Llave said.

Found inside the compound were numerous steel and plastic drums piled atop each other, plastic square bins containing different kinds of hazardous wastes and stacks of contaminated rags.

In one area of the plant premises, workers wearing gas masks were seen pouring hazardous chemical waste in a tank filled with caustic soda.

CESI is included in the Aug. 31, 2006 DENR list of recyclers of hazardous wastes.

The company also operates another plant in Los Baños City, Llave said.

The raid was prompted by the disclosure of operators Sultan and Helen Bagais, residents of Infanta, Quezon, that the toxic chemicals that they have been dumping in several sites in the province originated from the company's compound.

Last week, DENR operatives and the TK staff discovered dumping sites for hazardous chemical wastes in the village of Mangilag Norte in Candelaria town and in the village of Gen. Luna in Infanta at the foot of Mount Banahaw.

Villagers officials pointed to Bagais as the one responsible for the dumping of the hazardous waste.

Bagais, in his affidavit, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, said they have already taken out of the compound a total 3,500 drums containing different kinds of factory wastes since June this year.

The couple said the drums were being given to them for free by a person they identified as Salvador Llave Jr., who works at the CESI, on condition that they will be the one to dispose of the materials.

The two said they accepted the offer because of financial opportunities after they were assured that the drums contents will not harm them as long as they were buried under the ground.

The Bagaises said they once they dispose of the contents, they sell the steel drum that weighs 18 kg each at P16 per kg. The plastic drums cost P200 up to P500 each, when unopen.

The couple claimed innocence when informed that what they had been doing was against the law. "We're also victims here," the Bagaises said. The Bagaises said the CESI lets them pick up the wastes only when its DENR personnel are around.

Llave, however, vehemently denied knowing Bagais.

He said the firm investigated the reports and found that several drums containing toxic wastes were missing. He said when they monitored smoke inspections in the Sitio's Candelaria and Infanta dumps, they found some of the missing drums scattered in the area.

Lawyer Ana Parra, TK executive director, said Llave's statements are unbelievable. "He claim that they had been robbed of toxic drums are hard to believe," Perez said.

"If the company will insist they had been robbed of those to 3,000 drums of toxic wastes, it only shows their point incompetence. They should have stopped operations for they would only endanger the lives of the public," Perez said.

Ramon de Roma, San Pablo environment and natural resources officer, also expressed doubts over Llave's statements.

"If that's true they should have reported it to the police and to our office. But there's no report," he said.

The two dumps in Candelaria and Infanta were found littered with hundreds of plastic and steel drums containing different kinds of the chemical wastes, some of them spilling on two creeks and farms.

The dumps, inside coconut plantations, have several mounds pile filled with factory wastes. The chemicals were just dumped into the dumping ground and then covered when full.

Some of the containers have labels that read "hazardous waste" and have skull and bone signs. Some of the drums also have marks of the Light Industry and Science Park and Powers and Gumbs Philippines Inc.

But government authorities maintained that the tag does not necessarily mean that the wastes products originated from the said firm and industrial park as the containers may have been reused by other parties. *Bella C. Bolbar Jr., Inquirer Southern Luxon*

A POLICEMAN wearing a face mask inspects a pile of drums believed to contain toxic wastes at the Clean Earth Solutions International Inc. (CESI) compound in San Pablo City. PHOTOGRAPH BY MELANIE LAZARO FOR INQUIRER

MORE TOXIC drums inside the CESI compound

Lawyer wants BCDA head accountable for losses

THE LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE joint venture firm that runs the Poro Point port sought sanctions against Rares Concession and Development Authority chair Felicito Abaya for said loss of pesos of losses incurred by the firm as a result of a government takeover of the port.

In a statement, lawyer Brigido Dulay said Abaya should answer for the losses that Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) incurred as a result of the takeover.

Abaya repeatedly said he allowed the takeover of the port by the Philippine Ports Authority to protect government interest and keep the port operations running.

"It is unfortunate that it was the president of our joint venture partner which moved however and wants to facilitate the armed assault on the Poro Point that PPIC was facing next consumed times," Dulay said.

Earlier, results of a fact-finding mission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said there was no sign of coal pollution at the port controlled by PPIC, but by one of the owners of a vessel that was using the port.

PPIC has estimated the losses to be P17 million.

But Dulay said these estimates do not include the amount of losses that was incurred by shipping companies and some 3,000 workers who depend on the port for their livelihood.

"Perhaps the losses could have been avoided if General Abaya had opted to exercise caution and prudence...," said Dulay.

Dulay called for sanctions on Abaya as there the Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, regional development council chair for Northern Luzon, said he was allowed by top officials of the PPIC an arrangement to share income no matter how small or big during the deal that involved the consent to run the port to the joint venture firm.

But officials of PPIC quickly denied Singson's statement.

"It was not true that anybody from the company talked to anyone about the matter. They (PPIC officials) did not approach anyone nor were they approached by anyone," Dulay said.

Singson said he learned that after it became he assisted the government to recover from the venture. *With reports from Yolanda Arriola-Fuertes and Lourcio Bulbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Canada backs efforts on common sermons in mosques

OTTAWA—THE GOVERNment of Canada is currently supporting an initiative that seeks to unify mosque sermons for Muslims through the Dar'ul Ifta (Houses of Opinion) in the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Jose Dritsa, ARMM area manager of the Canada International Development Agency's Local Government Support Program (Dida-LGSP), said the program aims to amplify Islam's peace message through the most basic information medium, or medium, for Muslims—the mosque sermons, called Khutba in Arabic.

Dritsa said his group has been working closely with heads and members of the Shariat Houses of Opinion in Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and the cities of Cotabato and Marawi.

Ustadz Sanusi Ibrahim, a senior member of the Dar'ul Ifta here, said the unified Houses of Opinion in the five provinces and two cities has initially come up with six uniform sermons for delivery at local mosques during the Friday of Ramadan.

Dritsa said each of the six sermons keeps from the true teachings of Islam, but also people of other faiths should try to understand the religion, especially in a diverse society like the Philippines.

On the other hand, he said, local Islamic authorities believe that a uniform Khutba is essential to peace-building efforts.

Dritsa said the initiative underscores the importance of delivering uniform sermons in Friday mosque congregations to those for the first time this month in the country. The same is to be seen in Malaysia, and the delivery is even centralized in Saudi Arabia over TV network, by designated Khatawibs (deliverers).

Islamic authorities in the five provinces and two cities have designated six most learned Khatawibs to deliver each of the six sermons in forty-minute sessions. The number of Khutba copies translated in English had so far its thousands of other local mosques.

They said the purpose for a uniform Khutba was to produce a Islamic sermons and achieve more responsible delivery and conventional interpretation of Islam's messages.

Datuk Mohammad Sulaiman, one of the ten local Muslim experts with a degree in Legal (the classic Arabic language of the Koran), said he was offering for use in the program his works on Maguindanao's translation of the Muslim Holy Book.

Ibrahim said the program deserves help from the Cotabato City Muslim Chamber of Commerce, and its initiatives hope it would gain support from peace programs of the local government units, the basic partner of the G-to-LGSP. *Nash B. Almalem, Inquirer Mindanao*

MUSLIMS in Iloilo City pray at a mosque in observance of the Ramadan. Efforts to promote a better understanding of Islam are being funded by foreign donors, particularly Canada.

Sana maaga dumating ang Pasko...

Abc

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Get in your feet!

PHOTOGRAPHERS' LAME. Photographers from different backgrounds enjoy taking pictures of a Dragon Dance during the opening of the newly renovated Hidalgo street in Quiapo, the haven of photographers for so many years. Ace Morandante

Photographers 'retake' their former territory

By Tina S. Santos

SEVERAL PHOTOGRAPHY ENTHUSIASTS took a trip down memory lane Thursday along the redeveloped R. Hidalgo street in Quiapo, which is set to reclaim its title as Manila's photography haven.

For several decades—before the area was taken over by street vendors—R. Hidalgo street was the place to go for amateur photographers needed, especially secondhand camera outlets it is best remembered for, for their emphasis on hobby.

Yesterday morning, city officials and members of photography organizations formally reopened the refurbished R. Hidalgo.

The street was closed to vehicular traffic to give people enough space to move around.

The makeover has turned R. Hidalgo into a promenade paved with colorful interlocking concrete blocks. It has lanes lamp-posted and, in the evening, lights-strung-lights.

With the street's new look, photo companies and photographers have proposed the establishment of outdoor cafés where photographers can hang out. They also suggested the opening of photo galleries where they can exhibit their works and a library that will specialize on photography.

Vendors who were displaced by the rehabilitation of R. Hidalgo were promised by photography organizations that they would help train them in photography-related livelihood.

Mike A files more libel charges against Tulfo brothers

Another ₱22-M suit against Ramon & Inquirer editors

By Tina S. Santos and DJ Yap

PINOY ENTERTAINER JOSE MIGUEL "MIKE" Arroyo filed yesterday two more cases of libel against four more columnists Ramon Tulfo and the editors of the publications.

Arroyo also filed additional libel charges against Tulfo's brother Erwin, before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Last month, Arroyo filed a ₱22-million libel suit against Tulfo and the Inquirer for linking him to smuggling activities.

With his lawyer Ray Bondoc, Arroyo filed another ₱22-million libel suit against the same set of respondents before noon yesterday at the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

The other respondents are PSE publisher Isagani Yambot; editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc; managing editor Jose Nin. Molina; associate editor Abelardo Abaton; associate editor for leadership Rosario Garcellano; news editor Artemio Engoy; opinion editor Jorge Avala; national editor Prospective Bandapel Jr.; and senior desk editor Jose Bonifacio.

Bondoc said his client decided to file more cases against the respondents because of the continued publication of alleged libelous pieces.

"We were hoping that Mon Tulfo and the Inquirer would stop publishing libelous articles, but they repeated it even after the first case was filed," Bondoc said yesterday. "Tulfo even appeared on TV saying he does not care (about) being sued. I guess he enjoys it."

In his complaint, Arroyo cited in particular Tulfo's Sept. 5 ("Out of naked power") and 12 ("Talk talks—Im Ho") articles.

Sought for comment, Tulfo said the libel cases "were just plain harassment. It's (Arroyo's) way of silencing me."

As for the additional libel charges against Erwin, Arroyo is demanding ₱22 million in damages and lawyer's fees. In a seven-page complaint, he accused the Tulfos of instigating his name in television interviews on ABS-CBN News Channel and DZRH.

In the interviews, the brothers alleged Arroyo engineered the cancellation of their show "Isumbong Mo (Hide Brothers)" on RPN 9, Arroyo denied the charges.

The Tulfos also damned Arroyo had libel relations with Ricky Tan and was protecting her alleged smuggling activities.

Last month, Arroyo filed libel charges against the Tulfos, including brother Bally, for allegedly defamatory statements made in a press conference where they revealed the cancellation of their television show.

Pasay vice mayor suspended anew

Jocelyn R. Uy

SUSPENDED PASAY VICE MAYOR Antonino Calixto said yesterday he would seek another temporary restraining order to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from serving a new 90-day suspension.

Calixto was served the second suspension order Thursday afternoon, through his legal counsel, Phil Ramos, barely two days after the Court of Appeals lifted its 90-day, five-month suspension order of the Office of the Ombudsman.

"This is already a form of harassment. I would not have minded if I committed a grave offense but I have not violated any law," Calixto told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

The 90-day preventive suspension, signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, was issued after four councilors—Allan Hardajan, now acting mayor; Arnie Talmadao, acting vice mayor; Madrid Dimaisip and Jonathan Calimon—filed a case of grave abuse of discretion against Calixto in July for allegedly refusing to provide them with enough office personnel.

Calixto said he was served the suspension order without an investigation by Malacañang.

He said he would file counter-charges against Hardajan and Talmadao for allegedly persuading him the other day from returning to his post.

Calixto was at the Navy City Hall Thursday morning but found the door to his office locked.

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Taguig sees drop in dengue cases after 'Milenyo'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TAGUIG CITY HAS SUBSIDING to thank Typhoon "Milenyo" for—rebutting assertions that the typhoon helped spread dengue cases in the city.

Dr. Rolando Pua, said yesterday there was a significant drop in the number of dengue cases after the typhoon hit Metro Manila last week.

From Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, only 19 cases, a 50-percent drop from the 44 cases recorded during the week of Sept. 22-26.

The City Health Office recorded 140 dengue cases from January to Sept. 11. By Sept. 22, the total was 182.

Despite the good news, Pua reminded residents to continue to take precautions and to keep their surroundings clean because dengue-carrying mosquitoes thrive after heavy rains.

Residents were instructed to discard old rubber tires or containers there as they would not hold water.

Earlier, City Mayor Freddie Tinga called for a sustained drive against dengue particularly in places affected by flash floods brought about by "Milenyo."

PEACE KEEPER: Inspector Dennis Sumalinog kisses goodbye his 2-year-old daughter Patricia. He left with rest of the PNP Peace Keeping Force for East Timor. PHOTOGRAPHER

MetroBriefs

Wais rally

Members of the Kaisaped Kilusang Kristiyano (Kaisaped) and the Franciscan Movement for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, and the Civic-Watch Coalition held a peaceful assembly as part of "Wais (Walang Sky-rokong) Day", in front of the Ombudsman Office in QC. Wais is a Philippine-style rollback of skyrockets. McDonald's was provided for marketing Merged Service as served this group the American franchise "is committed to protecting the environment."

Darryl Bidenmeier

Suspected gang members nabbed

Four suspected members of the "gang" gang posing as commuters in Muntinlupa City were arrested yesterday. City police chief Supt. Jose Rizal Espinosa identified the suspects as Ariel Salazar, Agustin Arbolario, Randy Alvarez and Jonno Mendoza, all of San Pedro, Laguna. Two suspects were arrested as they allegedly tried to snatch the cell phone of Abigail Cruz.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Alleged drug dealer arrested

Alias "Jonky" Waters, allegedly Makati's leading drug seller, was arrested Saturday with ex-Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez in Barangay Sta. Ana, Pateros. Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado said with the arrest Hercules could run one more notorious drug sub-dealers Waters is connected to be involved in the 2000 slay of ex-anti-drug agent, Romulo Ortiz. Inside the Logistical Compound

Tarra F. Quismundo

Jailed for a notebook!

Two young men are facing imprisonment for allegedly taking the notebook of a 14-year-old boy Thursday morning in Malabon City. Insp. Jorge Tabayag chief of the City's investigation unit said the suspects started robbing innocent 2nd year high school student Joel Del Rosario's notebook in their possession. The suspects were identified as Randy Tagaza, 22, and Felix Cuanico, 18, both residents of Catmon in City. Taken from the student's possession an piece of notebook worth P15 each, a CARD Bag and a baseball cap.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Tiangco says cops not above the law

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MANDALUYONG CITY TIANGCO has asked Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, National Police district director, to see to it that the town's policemen obey the law. Tiangco was acting on reports of the town's Public Safety and safety office (PSO) that policemen constantly violated local ordinances, particularly traffic rules.

He said he asked Bataoil to remind policemen they were not exempted from local ordinances.

PCSO reported that policemen refused to be apprehended for their violations. The cops sometimes even threatened traffic enforcers while refusing to yield their licenses.

The mayor said usually violators of say the ordinance on the wearing of helmet when riding a motorcycle.

Tiangco told the lawmen that the arrogance showed by some policemen who broke the town's rules and regulations deepened the animosity between them and local traffic enforcers.

"The incidents pose one serious considerable difficulty particularly when policemen refused to surrender their driver's licenses," Tiangco said.

Their ruling policemen did not excuse them from following local regulations, the mayor said.

"No one is exempted from following local laws. They (policemen) are supposed to help us implement the law but they are the ones regularly violating them," Tiangco said.

Tiangco said police officers must set an example for subordinates.

Bataoil, who has jurisdiction over the policemen in Catmon (Caloocan), Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, said, " Everyone, especially policemen, must follow rules and regulations and no one must be excused from paying the penalties corresponding to the violations."

P.7M fake products seized

By Tina G. santos

SOME P70,000 WORTH OF counterfeit designer items were seized the other day from several establishments in Manila and Pasay City.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD), in a series of raids, seized 2,367 fake Prada bags and wallets from several stalls at the Barbazan Terminal Plaza in Binondoan, and Metro Mall and Manila Textile Market in Binondo, Manila.

Charges of unfair competition are being readied against the store owners.

An example of man's inhumanity to man

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

FOR WHAT TO KNOW HOW much a man could be brutally cruel to his fellowman? Read on.

Ryan Sangalang, 23, escaped from the Camp Personal Ahmad Kamir in Tagaytay City a little less than a month ago. He had been in and out of the mental hospital since he was 19 years old.

Sangalang was walking aimlessly in Tagaytay City when he encountered a frequent flyer once left by its driver with the engine running.

He was caught behind the steering wheel, taken to the police station, and booked for carnapping (see Bob!).

Sangalang is detained at the city jail along with other mental inmates. Apparently, because he had not taken any medication for his illness, he became wild.

That's when the jail guards or fellow detainees poured boiling water on him.

Sangalang suffered third degree burns in different parts of his body.

When a crew of "Bombong ano kay Ildo" (yes, we're still up to) and shout and sweeping complaints despite being put off the air) went to see him, they found him in great pain due to his burns.

The sensitive boys Miguel Gangcuyan, didn't take responsibility for Sangalang's condition, pointing to the other inmates as the culprits.

Gangcuyan hasn't even seen the poor guy in the hospital he (and some) tried really against his brutal treatment—and should, therefore, be transferred to the mental hospital.

Why did only prison help Ryan Sangalang?

***

Feisal Ali Benalaglo, a Saudi national whom I've continuously criticized for being an undesirable alien and who has filed several libel cases against me and my editors, claims he is "a law-abiding person" in his letter to the editors (Oct. 5, 2006).

This "law-abiding person" was ordered deported by the Bureau of Immigration on Jan. 28, 2004, for being an undesirable alien.

The Immigration bureau, however, reversed its deportation order, saying it was "too harsh a punishment." He was instead ordered to pay a P50,000 fine.

On April 28, 2004, "law-abiding" alien Benalaglo was ordered by Labor Arbiter Hilario M. Libiran to pay 18 overseas Filipino workers a total of $18,708 for their unpaid salaries in Saudi Arabia.

Benalaglo's recruitment firm, Mabal Technical Management Services, had recruited OFWs for Saudi.

On March 17, 1992, the Supreme Court ordered Benalaglo, through his other company Majal Development Corp., to pay a total of $227,276.88 to four OFWs who were not paid their salaries by a Saudi Arabian firm.

The Saudi firm recruited the workers through Majal.

That's how "law-abiding" Benalaglo is.

***

At the risk first Gentleman Mike Arroyo is filing libel cases against me, as well as inspiring writers of certain rants against me, there will come a time when I won't be doing anything except attend hearings or trials.

If Sr. Ninoy thinks I'll be cowed, he has another thing coming. I'm enjoying the publicity and attention.

I hope Mr. Benigno's soothing emotions don't lead to a heart attack or a stroke.

Concentrated meditation every former friend to get rid of his angst.

***

I've finally gotten hold of a copy of a "whistle paper" naming businessmen who are supposedly on the take from customs and immigration officials, as well as from alleged smugglers.

I can only sympathize with my hapless colleagues. I particularly sympathize with the women journalists.

My brothers Bally and Erwin and I have been victims of malicious, cowardly attacks from the two same persons or persons who hide under the cloak of anonymity.

The white paper deliberately omitted our names to the suspicion would be sworn.

The writer is a master of intrigues.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thaksin's assets

BANGKOK—Thailand's corruption watchdog said Friday it will publicly release hundreds of financial statements filed by military officials, including Thaksin Shinawatra and many ministers who served under him. The move comes as an undigested country by the junta that ousted Thaksin in a bloodless coup on Sept. 19 is one of the junta's first actions, the government nominated the National Counter Corruption Commission, which had been dominated for years by a pro- and old loyalist, with fresh blood and untainted panel with the power to seize assets from Thaksin and other former officials. After its first meeting Friday, the NCCC said it would release the financial records, making public detailed information about the assets of billionaire Thaksin and everyone who was in his cabinet. The minister will include 200 financial records currently from the court of Thaksin's government in 2001, he said. AFP

NATO assumes command

KABUL—NATO assumed control of international forces across Afghanistan Thursday, taking charge of the south of the country from the US-led coalition that toppled the Taliban regime five years ago. The transfer saw 12,000 US troops who had been operating in the east under the coalition fall under the 37-nation International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), bringing to about 21,000 soldiers nationwide. The move was marked by a flag-changing ceremony in the capital Kabul attended by Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the top commanders of both forces. AFP

Kurdish lawmaker killed

BAGHDAD—A Kurdish lawmaker, along with his driver, was shot and killed here on Thursday, officials said. The lawmaker, Mohammad Sadiq Mohammad, was an Islamist Sunni in the mostly secular Kurdistan Alliance, which represents the ancient Kurdish tribes in the Kurdistan National Assembly. An Interior Ministry official said the lawmaker was found by the road police just a few yards from offices of the Sunni Endowment, a government organization that administers Sunni mosques. And the northern Baghdad neighborhood of Shaab, which has been troubled by sectarian violence. Both men had been shot in the head. *New York Times News Service*

Hamas men jailed for life

JERUSALEM—An Israeli military court sentenced two members of Palestinian militant group Hamas's armed wing to life imprisonment for killing eight Israelis in a series of attacks, the army said on Friday. The Military Court sentenced Jasem al-Barghouthi, a commander in Hamas's armed wing in the town of Ramallah, to eight life sentences for war crimes, plus for the killing of eight Israelis including soldiers. Wanted al-Barghouthi, who worked near the settlement and an additional 30 years in jail for war crimes, plus... *Reuters*

World powers hold crucial meeting on Iran

LONDON—THE SIX MAJOR POWERS addressing Iran over its nuclear ambitions hold a crucial meeting Friday in London that the US and British hope will lead to the doubling of a UN sanctions resolution next week.

After a flurry of diplomatic phone calls and signs of welcome from key partners in the group, the foreign ministers of Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US agreed to Tuesday's gathering, officials said.

The discussion will cap off an intensely busy weeks long meetings by European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana to continue his to suspend to uranium enrichment program as demanded by a UN Security Council resolution.

Solana admitted this week that the effort had failed to stop the Islamic Republic's hardline leaders, who reject claims by the US and others that the enrichment program is aimed at producing fissile material for nuclear bombs.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday's meeting, which includes the five veto-wielding permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany, would shift the text offer from target actions to punishment.

"What the ministers are going to do ... is to say, 'We've done the Solana offer, and now we'll have to move to sanctions'," she said during a surprise visit to Baghdad.

Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, Emyr Jones Parry, said on the Thursday that once the so-called P5 plus 1 ministers from the group's light, discussions would begin at the UN level aimed at a sanctions resolution.

Britain "will be discussing with its partners and with members of the Security Council the basis for action by the council to adopt measures under Article 41 against Iran," he said.

Article 41 of the UN Charter allows the Security Council to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions on member nations to enforce compliance with its resolutions.

But despite the confident statements from the US and Britain, there were no indications either Russia or China, both economic allies of Iran, had backed away from their strong reluctance to use sanctions.

The two countries' foreign ministers were the last to confirm their participation in Friday's meeting, a senior diplomatic source here said, holding up a decision to go ahead with the gathering for several hours.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on a visit to Warsaw Thursday still showed little eagerness to move ahead with sanctions.

"We will continue with the diplomatic efforts, even though some are in favor of sanctions as of now," he said.

Senior diplomats from the six nations who have been working on an initial package of sanctions to run-applied have refused to meet in London Friday to pursue their work, the Sunday Telegraph said.

Washington has been pressing its partners to impose a progressive series of sanctions against Iran since Tehran missed an Aug. 31 deadline set in an earlier Security Council resolution demanding an end to uranium enrichment.

Iran, one of the world's major oil producers, says the enrichment program is a peaceful fuel for nuclear power plants. The United States and others believe it is in to produce fissile material to make nuclear bombs.

Rice agreed in a six-power meeting in New York last month to give Solana until this weekend to convince Iran to comply with the UN resolution to exchange for a package of economic and diplomatic rewards.

Solana on Thursday admitted his efforts had failed so far and that "the time of negotiations is of course a not infinite." Rice has said the US wants a graduated series of sanctions, to be implemented through multiple UN resolutions that would ramp up pressure on Iran if it persists with its nuclear program.

The first set of measures is expected on Iran on preventing the supply of materiel and funding for Iran's nuclear or ballistic missile programs.

Other steps would include asset freezes and travel bans on officials linked to Tehran's weapons programs.

Even if China and Russia agree to the first set of sanctions, many analysts say the final measures being considered would have little immediate impact.

"Iran can get a permit of a sanctions resolution passed by the UN, but it won't be strong enough to significantly affect Iran's behavior," said Joseph Cirincione, a non-proliferation expert at the Ashenian Center for Progress in Washington. AFP

Food, not flowers, for Amish shooting victims

NICKEL MINES, PA.—AS IS CUSTOMARY in Amish traditions, guests brought food, not flowers. A hymn was sung in 16th-century German, but there were no singing. The dead were laid in simple pine coffins and dressed in homemade white dresses, symbolizing purity. Two women were guest, both in Pennsylvania Dutch.

Three days after a grisly attack on an Amish schoolhouse here, funerals were held Thursday for four of the five girls killed by a gunman who wrote of living forever changed by the death of his newborn daughter and clerics who the subject by fantasies of sexually assaulting young girls.

The first of Thursday's services began at 9 a.m. in the woodworking shop of the father of the deceased, Naomi Rose Ebersol, 7.

"We are here facing the unexpected," said one of the two Amish pastors who spoke and whose remarks were relayed by a Mennonite minister who attended, David Weaver. "We know and believe that Anna's girls are in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ."

After the 90-minute service, about 100 more with long beards and women in white bonnets climbed into their black and gray buggies and slip-slopped to pay a procession to Bart Amish Cemetery. Along the way they passed the home of Charles Carl Roberts IV, the 32-year-old killer, who was a milk-truck driver.

A few hours later, a similar ceremony was held in the barn of the family of the oldest victim, Marian Fisher, 13, who told fellows during the attack on Monday to kill her and spare her classmates. And in late afternoon, the service for Mary Liz Miller, 8, stuffed so that hundreds of guest could see.

Another victim, Anna Mae Stoltzfus, 11, was to be buried Friday.

Relatives said a total of 10 young girls. One was taken off life support Tuesday and brought home to die, officials said. Two remained in critical condition and two in serious condition.

Since Tuesday, Amish mourners had received visitations of the victims at the homes their homes.

Rita Miranda, a midwife who had delivered many of the girls in what seemed, had One during the gatherings, in which caravans were open, young mourners were examining the bodies.

A FUNERAL procession for one of the victims of the Amish school massacre is way through the town of Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, Oct. 5 near Lancaster. AP

"It is part of the realization that the person is no longer in the body said Rhoads, a Mennonite who has attended many Amish funerals. "It's part of the reality of life."

New York Times News Service

UN finalizes statement on N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS—UN SECURITY Council members reached broad agreement on Thursday on a Japanese-drafted statement that warns North Korea of unspecified consequences if it conducts a nuclear test.

The text is similar to the original and was negotiated by senior diplomats of the 15 council members. It was being sent to governments for possible changes before further discussion on Friday.

North Korea announced on Sunday it planned to test underground nuclear test, saying its hand had been forced by a US "threat of nuclear war and sanctions."

The statement, first submitted by Japan's UN ambassador Kenzo Oshima, urges Pyongyang to cancel its planned test and return immediately to its six-party talks aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its atomic arms program. *Reuters*

The WORLD

Lilac Lorenzo B. Garcia

US Congress to probe sex scandal

WASHINGTON—A US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ethics panel on Thursday launched an investigation into a sex scandal that rocked President George W. Bush's Republican Party a month before legislative elections.

The top Republican in the House, Dennis Hastert, apologized for the handling of bold second-hand sex text between party lawmaker Mark Foley to underage aides in Congress, that Hastert again rejected calls for his resignation.

With the Republicans in a desperate battle to keep control of Congress in the Nov. 7 vote, questions mount about when the Republican leadership found out about Foley's behavior and why it did not act earlier.

The Ethics investigation comes on top of criminal investigation launched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Justice Department and by officials in Florida, which includes Foley's home district.

The bipartisan House Ethics Committee inquiry said it had ordered about four dozen subpoenas for individuals and documents, including direct testimony from members of Congress.

Ethics committee chair, Representative Richard "Doc" Hastings, a Republican, said all of Congress had been "appalled" at reports of the suggestive messages sent by Foley to teenage boys.

"The letters, known as pages, are sent out from graduation from secondary school when they spend a semester in Washington acting as aides to members of Congress.

Representative Howard Berman, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said lawmakers wanted the investigation finished in "weeks." The committee will investigate Foley's sexual overtures to the teenage aides, over several years, and whether Republican leaders properly handled the ensuing scandal, House ethics committee chair Hastings said.

"Like all Americans, we are both appalled at the revelations of highly inappropriate communications between former representative Mark Foley and a young man who came to know Mr. Foley while working here in the Capitol as a congressional page," Hastings said.

"Simply put, the American people, and especially the parents of all current and former pages, are entitled to know the circumstances were handled. And we are determined to answer their questions," he said. AFP

Russia readies more sanctions on Georgia

MOSCOW—RUSSIA PLANS TO TIGHTEN banking and transport controls on its southern neighbor Georgia, officials said Thursday as the diplomatic crisis between the two countries showed no sign of abating.

"We have found that Russia's regime do not need Georgian citizens," Mikhail Tyurdin, deputy head of Russia's migration service, told a press conference in Moscow.

"Citizens of Georgia are not the best category of immigrants since they most often break the law," Tyurdin said, adding: "Why should Russia take in citizens of a state that hates it? We don't need them." An many late for Georgian migrant workers, tens of thousands of whom arrive in Russia every year, would require a change in the law and would not apply to tourists, business people or students, a spokesperson said.

Russian parliamentary leaders were also quoted in newspapers as saying they were considering special laws to give President Vladimir Putin authority to impose banking controls on countries such as Georgia.

"We are talking about legislation that would allow the president ... to create a special regime for countries that follow anti-Russian policies," said Sergei Baburin, deputy speaker of the Russian parliament.

"The United States has the same law and once it against Belarus," Baburin was quoted by the Izvestia on daily as saying after a meeting with Putin in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

Amid a continuing war of words, Putin warned Georgia on Wednesday not to use "provocation" and "blackmail" and Russia's pro-Russian prompted a resolution denouncing "tougher measures" against Tbilisi.

On Thursday he ordered a tightening of the visa regime for foreigners "who violate Russian law," without specifically mentioning Georgians, and vowed to "defend the interests of the population." Georgia's Foreign Minister Gela Bezhuashvili privately rejected claims to smuggle up controls on Georgian immigrants, which he said "violated all international norms and principles" as "differing between people by their nationality is a sign of xenophobia." The crisis erupted last week when four Russian officers were detained in Georgia on charges of spying. Russia announced retaliatory staff and severed all transport and postal links with Georgia. AFP

Defiant LA Times publisher sacked

IN THE LATEST CHAPTER IN A LONG-RUNning drama at The Los Angeles Times, the country's fourth-largest newspaper, the publisher was forced out Thursday, three weeks after entrenched editors rebelled against his corporate bosses.

Meanwhile, the paper's editor, who had also clashed with the suits, kept his job. The editor, Dean Baquet, said he agreed to stay because he was convinced he would have the chance to make his case across the shaking up both his staff and his budget, a colleague said, however, that he would still leave.

Ousting the publisher, Jeffrey M. Johnson, enables the Tribune Co., the newspaper's parent, to reassert control over a renegade publication while averting further turmoil for now. Many of Baquet's senior editors were considering leaving with him if he were fired or quit.

The move also appears to delay the possibility that 100 people could be cut in another 940-member editorial staff in the next few months. Some cuts still appear likely, though possibly fewer and spread out over a longer period of time. Tribune, the most newspaper companies, has come under pressure from Wall Street to increase profit and revenue, even with circulation and advertising being weak.

The Times appointed a new publisher, David Hiller, who met with Baquet after the company announced the resignation of Johnson, who was appointed publisher only last year. NYT

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Ardina, 12, rules HK Ladies Open
(A)25

SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

HELMET Creelman of TEA disputes possession with Arwind Santos of Alaska.

Realtors spill Express

Cabagnot atones for past indiscretion with big game

By Jun Navarro

HE LIVED THE ROLE OF villain. In a flash, Alex Cabagnot is now a hero, subject of praise and acclamation.

Cabagnot joined hands with Arizona Sheridan and sparked Sta. Lucia Realty's final push for a convincing 98-88 victory over Air21 last night in the Talk 'N Text PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Outbarreling the plays with precision, the freshman sophomore playmaker scored the last of his 15 points in the decisive period, including a three-pointer as the cap of the net-clan downed the hapless Express.

Sheridan, who had 11 of his 16 points down to the final earmark, was the recipient of two nifty assist passes from Cabagnot that set the tone for Sta. Lucia's first open-ing-game victory in the two-for seasons.

"This is a welcome game for Alex [Cabagnot]," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfonso Chua. "The prodigal son is back. He's a totally changed man."

During the off-season, Cabagnot left the Realtors' camp without a word and was seen playing in a summer league in the United States. It drew the ire of his coach and the league as well.

Cabagnot was fined P20,000 by the PBA for **setting** stakes twice for the Los Angeles All-Stars and was harshly admonished by Sta. Lucia governor Realty Corporation and the rest of the Realtors.

Last night, however, all doubts were quashed as Cabagnot totally made the Realtors a different ballclub from the previous season. Finishing dead last last year, the Realtors have been ranked outside of the finishers.

"We're not considered as a team to beat this season," said Chua. "But we're going to climb to the top-one game at a time. I'm not going to push down anyone in practice."

Dennis Espino had 17 points and 11 rebounds, rookie Mark Isip finished with 13, all of them in the first half, while top freshmen pick Billy Williams added 11 markers and 14 points.

Williams provided the highlight of the night with a one-hand slam in the second quarter after catching the left pass from Cabagnot in mid-air that sent the entire coliseum roaring with approval.

"It's all coming for the new-look," said Williams. "But seriously, coach pushes us to our limits and I think it's good for the team."

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 98 – Onrubia 10, Isit 13, Cabagnot 15, Espino 17, Williams 11, Aquino 8, Pogkers 5, Lutong 2, Cuhit 3, Mendoza 2, Dionisio 0

AIR21 88 – Santos 14, Slaughter 12, De Ocampo 12, Ilo 10, Tolentino 8, Cruz 7, Cortez 6, Cruz 5, Ochoa 3, Ebona 0

Quarters: 20-30; 51-51; 71-71; 98-88

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Ginebra eyes No.2 vs TNT in D'guete

BAIS CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL, Philippines—Ginebra San Miguel will go for its second straight victory when it takes on a Purefoods squad hoping to muster its first win in the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup at the Luzurriaga Elorsa Sports Center in Dumaguete City.

The Gins are coming off a 106-99 defeat in the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals and hope to use their speed to upset the frontline heavy Kings.

"Our quickness will be tested against the tallest team in the league," Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio said in an interview yesterday. "If we can sustain our running game, we'll be fine against Ginebra."

"They can give us problems with their speed," said Ginebra coach Ang Ticzon, whose wards scored a 102-89 crushing of newcomer Welcoat on opening day.

The Kings will parade a virtual roster of All-Stars led by Rob Monk, Mark Caguioa, Rudy Hatfield, Niall Sweets, Billy Mamaril, Jeremiah Aldrich, Jaypee Belencena and Dave Abbarrientos against the former Tip and Sunday Superman do-lad Giants.

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Morales bares secret how to beat Pacman

HUGGY Pacquiao opens with Ramon Guzzy Hunnicke as the Wild Card gym as part of his preparations

AFTER PLAYING IT MYSTERIOUS OUT IN MEXICO's Otomi Mountains, Erik Morales yesterday came out in the open to bare he would beat Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

The Mexican boxing idol said Pacquiao would be meeting a totally different Morales when they clash for a title.

In an announcement at his own website "Boynking Morales, and people "will see a different El Terrible," who will show the old form that made him a multi-division world champion.

Morales also stressed that, this time, he won't be having weight problems in his rubber match with Pacquiao.

Morales revealed that he will write the fight results.

"The fight is not about the money. That is to prove that I still have it, and I am fighting for Mexico," Morales declared.

In a clear dig at Pacquiao, Morales insisted that the Filipino's recent bulletproof left did not affect him in their second fight which the Filipino won by technical knockout last January to relinquish close but unanimous loss in 2005.

Morales added that he was in the running and open to the evening under the watchful eyes of his father, Jose "Chencho" Morales.

The elder Morales has defied doctors' orders to step out of the fight, including Dr. Chenot, due to his diabetes, in order to closely monitor the training of his son.

Showtime, Pacquiao and Freddie Roach were then not apprised to a tie and had to taste the way Mares Antonio Barrera did to stunning his last fight.

Bernardo said they have a plan B to keep the Mexicans from using the ring to his advantage.

Pacquiao had to take a day off due to a little cold, but Roach and Dean were no need to worry as the Filipino hero was "a little ahead of schedule."

Pacquiao was scheduled to resume sparring yesterday.

Roach claimed Pacquiao appeared to rest the shape in less last bout record sparring.

Roach also announced for the first time that Pacquiao's right hook a coming along power well, "something Morales will have to match and fast" Aubrey C. Lagumbay, contributor

H. Centre five edges Spring Oil

BACOLOD/HARBOUR Centre Alex Jalo field Tuesday Spring Oil assertion in the closing minutes to prevail, 61-56, Thursday in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-MSC Summer Cup basketball tournament at the Sea-host gym.

The Tagaytay Spring defenders of MSC president Nathaniel "Jay" Pedilla and Mayor Bonifacio Tumulak held Spring Oil with 9:02 remaining for the Bacolay's harbour squad of businessman Mike Nazareno and his team Mayor IV Epstein, shut them out the rest of the way.

With its second victory in as many games, Bacolay Harbour Side Jalo assisted solo leader slap while Tagaytay Spring and settled for first loss in two games.

Kenneth Goyabeng led an Jalo's scoring line it was Allen Gumbao's three-point play which set Tagaytay Spring's lead in line going into the last two minutes.

Bob Sanz, Dante Pedilla and Gandino Gan combined to share their score ahead as Spring keyed themselves.

The event is sponsored by Sajo de Lima, Spring Cooking Oil, Mayor's Spring Shelter, Solidar Shoe Board Cebu and Prime Channel.

TOLENTINO 83—Goyabeng G. Agustin 15, Lacuna 10, Tolentino 10, Pelaez 9, Aviñante 4, Dizo 3, Mendoza 2, Dy 2, Cruz 2, Sandoval, Salagubang 2.

HARBOUR 56—Mendez 15, Sandoz 9, Capulong 8, Gandoza 8, Abando 6, Ramos 5, Sanz 5, Gan 5, Espinosa 3, Bernard 2, Gandoza, Sandoz 0.

Quarters 15-14, 32-28, 52-40, 83-56

UAAP tests NCAA today

GAMES TODAY (PHILSPORTS ARENA)
1 p.m.—UAAP (UCBM) (2)
3 p.m.—(elimination)
4 p.m.—UAAP (UCBM) (2)

IT WILL BE TO BE BEST VERSUS the brightest when two crushes from two-champion junior boys' two-division tournament meet today in the UAAP and NCAA collide today in the Stanley Base 1462 All-Stars at the Philsports arena.

Philo Interiors of UAAP-champion Junior Tomas seeks to complete an impressive run to another championship when they avenge the seeing superb humiliating loss in all losses during last year's edition assigned to help ahead children of Sammy Boria (16).

For the NCAA reigning star Bonifacio Bo-ho pair, will hold to extend NCAA domination of UAAP by following its sweep of two all-star games and the 2-3 ball, three-point shooting and slam dunk side-events.

"Guardianship is the only way to school nine but he knows Coach Ray well enough, he can't take it easy," newsperformer Butch Manzano.

Peter Blangy, ABS-CBN's voice presenter for sports and the commentating labors as per-assist-ch-challenger."

Ateneo tramples PMI

By Jasmine N. Payo

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES PUT THEIR heartbreaking UAAP campaign behind to sweeping Philippine Maritime Institute, 87-75, and clinch a quarterfinal berth in the Collegiate Champions League yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym. Doug Kramer finished with 16 points and seven rebounds to power the Eaglets' ready charge against the admirably the validated entry that upstaged the last 3 killed in the knockout contests.

The highly favored Eagles bounced to the Game Kansas Tigers in the UAAP Finals series four days ago. But the tournament top seed wounded champ on semi and easily crushed a 20-point advantage, 44-22, to the second period. With lead, coach Norman Black in the limited lineup deputy Gerardo Sargent and Rabeh Al-Hussaini entered the Ateneo coldfire. "The team is okay, they're strong men," said Sargent perhaps. "We only practiced for seven days to dialogue and conference."

The Ateneo Knights also posted Montero and opening-day winners UE and Mapua in the top-eight after topping University of Cebu, 83-77, in the first game.

Mike Quiambao registered only 16 points for the sixth-seeded Knights, who scored their first win since bowing out in the NCAA ninth five straight losses.

"We introduced a passing game," said Letran coach Louie Alas. "We made sure that, before we attack, we expose the ball around."

Jason Ola Wednesday scored seven of his 17, the Knights clustered six points for a 67-57 edge.

THE SCORES
Ateneo 87
Kramer 16
ATTENDANCE—Fourth: 16, Antonio 13, Montero 11, Ateneo 10, C. Bernardino 8, Quiambao 6, Mapua 6, Fajardo 2, Cordero 2, Ferrer 2, Ateneo 2, Alcantara 2, Ateneo 1

PMI 75—Rodriguez 14, Sabenacio 13, Cantos 8, Ola, Mesa 8, Fernandez 8, Ola, Mesa 3, Ola, Ateneo 2, Cantos 2, Dimaano 1, Ateneo 1, Ateneo 1, Rodriguez 1, Ateneo 1

Quarters 15-10, 40-22, 58-43, 87-75

SPORTSWATCH

Arcilla lead march of faves to semis

JOHNNY ARCILLA AND MARIELLE DIMARANGONAN MICHAEL MACEO 6-0, 6-1, yesterday and led the round-of-the-top four seeds to the semifinals of the 2006 Manila Cup Elbert's Open Tennis Championships at the NCCB Foundation courts. Arcilla, fresh off his victory in last month's Digos City Open, arranged a clash with fourth-seeded Gilbert Ananda, who downed Mr. Vicente Goba, 6-3, 6-3. Second-seeded Marianne Dimarangonan had an easy afternoon with an 8-0, 8-1 pounding of unranked Joseph Nicolas. Rival will face third-seed Alexander Lozano, who overcame wildcard Joseph Pelonia, 7-6, 3-7, 10-8.

2nd Pass sectional meet up

THE SECOND LEG OF THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION'S (Pasa) nationwide Philippine Youth Swimming Cup current gets underway this weekend in three venues in Lanao, Visayas and Mindanao. Iligan City will host the Lanao meet while Dumaguete stops Cebu for the Visayas leg. The Mindanao competition, Aqua Olympia Pasa-sponsored Mark Joseph, Misamis Oriental plays host to the Philippine Marines Swimming Club with around 400 Pasa-registered swimmers, ages 8 to 17, entered in the meet hosted by Aqua.

Espinosa Cup fundraiser Oct. 20

THE DEGUMA ESPINOSA CUP 2006 CLASSIC WALL OF FLAME RACE 20 AT THE Valley Golf Club's Executive course. Proponent and ambassador Ben Pelayo Club of Sandang Sora, the fundraising event for the key fortunate people of Asturias city will be held under the Sayson 20 format with the field to be divided into groups A, B, C, D and E. Players throughout the district 4 territory, DKG are invited to bid. Key Boardgame of PCC Recreation, PCC Base Recreation and Boxoglio, Cebu Boxoglio, PP-Marina Construction PC University Chabot, South Sea Insurance are through PP Full Cabanas, PGS Mini Solution of RC Bikman, PP for Sanmarine of PC Cotton, PP Jaro, Manila of SC Mathieson Lotus and RC Tandang Sora have pledged their support in the event held in conjunction with the birthday of Gov. Espinosa on Oct. 18.

Collaboration Chess Festival

FIRST NOW INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITIES (FAITH) IN DALAHICAN City, in cooperation with the Active Chess Center of Antipolo, will celebrate the Dalahican Chess Festival within at Faith from Oct. 13 to 15. The Dalahican Chess Festival was formerly held in 2006 but high school is scheduled Oct. 13 if time shall be considered of their opening. The Dalahican Chess Open, at 11-round open active chess event, is scheduled Oct. 14-15. Amazing Bonus expected to join are Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Rikki Pangan, Jaru Antonio and Rolando Maligaya. For inquiries, call 863-2929.

San Beda beaters tackle FEU

REIGNING CHAMPION SAN BEDA RED LIONS OF ITS UNDEFEATED TEAM TO ADVANCE Cesar Montano Basketball Tournament against Far Eastern University at the PNB Sports Complex in Pasay City. The San Beda beaters, who are gunning for their fourth straight NCAA title, will set out on the favorites in the 10:00 a.m. game supporting a knockout win after the preseason hand at former collegiate football partner Terry Fiscus. La Salle takes on Mapua in the first game. Ateneo, La Salle, Perpetual Help Arellano, Mapua and Letran make up Group A in the elimination round while Adamson, Far Eastern, Lyceum and Mapua comprise Group B.

GCAP derby Oct. 11

THE GOLF CLUB MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (GCAP) is ringing the golfing festivities of San Juan Golfclub on Oct. 11. Now sponsored by Sagittarius Corporation in 2006, the fourth GCAP inaugural golf festival (75 flights, Celtic Runners Against All Odds) and Other Beliefs (Pilar Tan) topped the finishing field Sept. 25. Golfers interested to log on on Monday featuring the Trump tournament round. Allowed slugs are those handed by GCAP Lukanon, LUBA, NCBA, SV Golf, CBS, Sta. Ignacia, Magtar, Tagbo, PBC, Golef, Tagbo, NGM, Bagbo and Bankmaster. Call 870-9100 (Mela) or 891-8064 for details.

SEE TO TOMORROW "Mienyo", THE PORTION OF THE AUCTION SALE WHICH WAS POSTPONED LAST SEPT. 30, 2006 WILL BE CONTINUED ON OCT. 8, 2006. STARTING 10AM SHARP.

Bayron catches Ababa on top

BUSTING BAYRON

Army, Air Force dispute futsal title

Wushu bets win 2 golds

Subic hosts Touring Car races tomorrow

JOEY Cesarong of Sen./Mg Coffee (front) eyes to nab challenge from Don Pastor of Bicolcion Team TSC (middle) and Kenbin Ramirez of Pantor Ultras (Ska) on Sunday.

Que fires 70, lays 3 off pace in Taiwan

DAVID—FILIPINO AMATEUR QUE fired a two-under par 70 Friday to be in a three-way tie for fifth, three shots off turn leader Gary Rusnak of the United States, halfway through the $500,000 Taiwan Open.

Que posted 35-35, counting his 69 Thursday at the Yuanlin Golf and Country Club.

World Number Nobody five holes on the way to a 69 for 141, to vie for 12th place with seven others, including Canada's Rich Gibson and Scotland's Simon Yates.

Rusnak three-under round saw him stumbled by Aaron Tow rookie Jamie Donaldson, who rallied from a 75 overnight to be eight shots off Rusnak at 140.

Donaldson has to an eight-man higher for 34th place, along with compatriot Gordon LeG, who scored a second straight 72 for 144.

Jerome Delavarie improved to a two-under 70 after a 75 overnight for 145.

Only Amateur Mukaiyama, who struggled to a 77 (3)6, failed to get under the 36-hole cut—at 147—among the Filipinos.

Rusnak carded such a six-under 30 and stood six (3)6 with 13th, rookie Jamie in front of Australia's Pat Gibb, who retained the same card for the day.

Chinese Taipei's Lin Wen-tang (69) and Australia's Steve Webber (71) lay another shot behind at 138.

Tour Order of Merit leader Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand (69) were in Que's group that also included South Korea's Lee Sung (68), Hideki Kase Ki (67) and Taiwan's Jar Bing-chi (70).

DOTTIE Ardina's quick her left everyone's win

Ardina, 12, rules HK Ladies Open

HONG KONG—TWELVE-YEAR-OLD DOTTIE Ardina scrambled with a seven-over-par 79 but held on to win the Hong Kong Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship by two shots over teammate Cora Rodriguez and two others on the Discovery Bay Golf Club yesterday.

Ardina, who edged a three-shot lead with a 70 overnight, survived the tough playing conditions, a triple bogey on the third hole and a double bogey on No. 15 for totals of 37-42 and a 221(+6).

"I played bad because I could see hit the green," said Ardina, whose shaky short game scored in eight bunker the last time on the 14th when she hit into the water fronting the green.

"I had to be defensive to protect my lead."

Rodriguez, who also finished second to Ardina in Guam recently's Indonesian Open, knew her lead with a 5 on the par-4 10th hole and doused out with a 75 for a 54-hole aggregate of 222.

Former SEA Ladies Open winner Constancia Villarosa rallied with the day's best score of 74 to catch Rodriguez and first round leader Chaya-da Singhawon of Thailand (78) in second place.

The 14-year-old Rodriguez, who also ruled the 13-14 division in the Junior Inter(s) Golf and the Aaron Juniors was steady in Ardina and the three tied for third at 224.

Ardina, Ardina's sixth triumph abroad this year concluded by her sweep in the 11-12 division of the Junior World in San Diego last July. The Canlubang youngster, one of the beneficiary of the JCPM golf program, also won the Aaron Juniors, Asian Juniors and the 39 Kids Championships.

Also SP scores: Ranker title No. 70 DE Jaya Sanjaya (2) def. Lanang Alfa 18-21

WHEN THE BEST AMATEUR HOOP STARS SHOOT IT OUT, THERE WILL BE ONE WINNER: THE KIDS OF BANTAY BATA 163.

BANTAY BATA 163

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SOLEDAD	SALMACENA
PCU	FEU
PASCUAL	RIVERA
LANSANG	PAGUIA
SBC	LOPEZ
RAMIDO	KNUTTEL
LARNETE	ADU
JRU	OLALIA
MABAGTING	NU
CSB	BATACLA
QUIAO	UST
EPHD	REYES, L.
ORBE	UE
CSJL	DUBAN
WONG	UP
HEAD COACH	ESPIRITU
RAYMUNDO	HEAD COACH
VALENZONA	POTT DE VERA
- SSC-R	- FEU

NCAA SENIORS	UAAP SENIORS
SBC	ADMU
GONE	INTAL
MENOR	ESCALONA
ANGELES	KRAMER
ALJIBANG	FEM
ESCOBAL	CONN
GAMALINDA	VILLANUEVA
PCU	ADU
CASTRO	BONG
GARRIDO	CABAHUG
CSJL	NU
MONDRAGON	ASORO
JRU	UST
DEOCAMPO	CRUZ
CSB	DUNCIL
GREEN	EVANGELISTA
EPHD	UE
INGA	ABELLANO
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Gomez settles for 3rd round draw

MAYONG, MAUTOLOSHVILI, GOMEZ SETTLE FOR A DRAW WITH DIZON

Jong Gomez of Rosedale of South Alabang Road 3 of the 2006 World Junior Boys and Girls Chess Championship. Running in Yerevan, Armenia. Gomez was

SPORTS

Tigers triumph, tie Yankees

NEW YORK—THE DETROIT TIGERS came back from two runs down to beat the New York Yankees, 4-3, and even their playoff series at one game apiece in Major League Baseball on Thursday.

Carlos Guillen hit a go-ahead RBI triple off Mike Mussina in the seventh inning to clip the rally, and send the Tigers home with a split in their American League division series.

In National League playoffs, the Cardinals defeated the San Diego Padres, 2-0, and the Mets downed the Los Angeles Dodgers, 4-1, as St. Louis and New York each took 2-0 series leads.

In a game postponed by the threat of rain the night before, a somewhat stunned Yankee Stadium crowd of 50,252 watched the wild-card Tigers end a six-game losing streak since the final week of the regular season.

Game 3 on Friday in Detroit matches Randy Johnson and his stiff back against former Yankee Kenny Rogers.

At San Diego, ever-loyal star David Wells couldn't save the Padres, who appear to be headed for their same old playoff late-game exit vs St. Louis.

Albert Pujols and Jim Edmonds hit RBI singles off Wells in the fourth inning and Jeff Weaver held the light-hitting Padres in check in five scoreless innings.

Game 3 is on Saturday at St. Louis. Game 4 would be on Sunday, if necessary, but history suggests otherwise. St. Louis, which barely avoided one of the biggest September collapses ever, improved to 8-0 in the postseason against San Diego. That includes division series sweeps last year and in 1996.

In New York, Tom Glavine, making his 33rd postseason start—but first since joining the Mets in 2003—issued no shutout innings and New York scratched out enough runs to beat Los Angeles for a 2-0 lead in their NL playoff series.

Jose Reyes drove in two runs from the leadoff spot, 40-game-old pinch-hitter Julio Franco battled in front of a double-play ball for an RBI, and Billy Wagner earned his second consecutive save.

Two days earlier, the NL East champions lost Orlando Hernandez to a calf injury—leaving him on the sidelines with ace Pedro Martinez all postseason.

But soon, they've one win from the NL championship series. AP

CARLOS Delgado of the Mets hits a single. AP

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* See Flyers for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4305 Series of 2006

Spain squad stuns Sixers; Spurs score

BARCELONA, SPAIN—FC BARCELONA (GUT) played Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers in the second half to win 109-104 on Thursday, only the third time an international club has beaten an NBA team since 1988.

The Sixers have been in Barcelona since Sept. 29 for training camp and are one of four NBA teams taking part in the inaugural preseason in Europe. The exhibition game was the Sixers' opener in the NBA European Livescan.

Samuel Dalembert led Philadelphia with 21 points on 9-of-11 shooting, but the 76ers struggled from the field here, hitting only 26 of 68 attempts. Iverson was 3-of-12 from the field and 7-of-13 from the line.

IVERSON

Six Barcelona players scored in double figures, led by Juan Navarro's 18.

"Iverson has been great with the exception of the game," Philadelphia coach Maurice Cheeks said. "The city is beautiful. It's tough to lose to anyone, but when you take 26 plus foul shots and make 20 plus turnovers, it can happen."

In Villeurbanne, France, Tony Parker scored 26 points and San Antonio Spurs beat Asvel Villeurbanne, 115-96.

Parker received a warm welcome from the crowd in a contest in which the Spurs were rarely threatened.

"It was good, although it felt a bit strange to play against a French team in the Spurs jersey," Parker said. "I wanted to play well because I am in France."

A broken finger kept Parker off France's team at this year's basketball world championship.

The Spurs next play Maccabi Tel Aviv in Paris on Sunday, as part of the NBA's European tour.

Also in Europe are the Phoenix Suns in Italy and the Los Angeles Clippers in Russia, though those teams did not play Thursday. AP

Cut officials, not athletes, from Asiad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHY NOT CUT THE HAIRDO OF OFFICIALS instead?

That was the piercing sentiment among several national athletes yesterday after news of tension on display on the Asian Games delegation that broke out at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

There are at least 100 officials who are in the official roster, including the secretariat and technical people from the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission.

They refused to be named but the athletes agreed that if there's a need to eliminate people from the Asiad roster, the athletes should be the last to go.

The athletes have been training in full swing for the past year, said cherie Jellam na-Gonzales, and taking some of them from the list would demoralize the rest of the contingent.

Asian Games chief of mission POC chair Simon Suntay could not be reached for comment.

But the first vice president was said to have told the POC, "Let's not be hasty."

POC first vice president Monico Puentevella said: "We can study several options. One is to eliminate teams and allow only [selected] to go."

He was referring to the stand of the Asiad Task Force which immediately shot down the last appeal of softball to make the cut.

The Philippines has entered around 335 delegates members. Of them, 242 are athletes and the rest are officials.

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez

Forex reserves hit all-time high at $21.56B

Boosted by OFW inflows, BSP purchases

By Gloria C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES surged to an all-time high of $21.56 billion in end-September as the appreciating peso allowed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to buy more dollars than necessary to service maturing foreign debt.

The latest GIR level was enough to cover about 4.3 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services, according to BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Foreign attributed the sustained rise in the GIR "mainly to inflows from the BSP's foreign exchange operations and income from investments abroad, which helped mitigate the foreign exchange requirements for payment of the national government and BSP maturing obligations."

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of a country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy for importation and debt servicing.

The foreign reserve build-up since the start of this year was supported by pe-

MORE, B2

Customs exceeds 'sin' tax target

By Michelle V. Rorra

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS COLLECTED P360 million worth of additional excise taxes on imported cigarettes and alcohol products from the implementation of the "sin" tax law, surpassing its P641-million goal for the first eight months of the year.

Documents from the BOC showed that of the P360 million, P460 million was accounted for by excise tax on alcohol, exceeding its P125-million target by 68 percent.

Excise tax on cigarettes, however, was 36-percent short of its P226-million target as it collected only P324 million.

Revenue authorities said the tra-

MORE, B2

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ Solve labor mismatch, gov't, private sector urged /B3

Brittany

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BSP told to get tough on weak banks

Non-complying banks not likely to get concessions

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund has cautioned the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas against giving concessions to banks that are unable to handle the shift to stiffer capital adequacy requirements.

In a draft report by a visiting IMF mission under its Post-Program Monitoring on the Philippines, the institution noted that with the regulatory changes (as issued by the International Accounting Standards and Basel 2 capital accord), some banks may require longer time to adjust.

"The authorities were encouraged by several recent mergers between banks and by a number of banks moving more rapidly," the IMF report said. "Even so, the regulatory changes underway were likely to be onerous for the weakest banks."

The IMF said a clearer picture of the impact of the IAS, and the extent to which some banks might require assistance, would emerge since the BSP had reviewed the IAS-adjusted financial accounts for 2005.

The report underscored "the importance of any regulatory leniency ended presided by the BSP being transparent and conditioned on a robust bank recapitalization plan."

The Basel 2 capital accord will be introduced in the Philippines in two stages. On Jan. 1, 2007, banks will be required to implement the standardized approach to credit risk and operational risks. In the second stage, effective in 2010, they will be allowed to move to the advanced internal ratings based approach.

Meanwhile, the IMF noted that bank lending remained sluggish even though banks were now disposing of their nonperforming assets.

While the strengthening of risk management would lay the foundation for solid lending growth over the medium term, the authorities also pointed to the demand for bank credit being weak, especially from the manufacturing sector," the IMF said.

But the mission agreed that strengthening the banking sector was an important challenge. The banks at present are fragmented and saddled with high NPAs, with some banks even lacking in capital and loan loss provisioning.

Previous IMF analysis indicated that deficiencies in accounting and loan classification practices had caused capital adequacy among some Philippine banks to be "overstated."

It noted that profitability improved in 2005, with rising revenues and foreign exchange trading gains boosting net operating income and allowing banks to increase their provisioning and debt write-offs.

However, the IMF expressed its concern that legislative amendments that would strengthen bank supervision remained stalled in Congress.

"Bank supervision would be given added teeth by amendments to the BSP charter that would provide legal protection for bank supervision and allow them to increase pressure on banks to raise capital and facilitate prompt closure of problem banks," the IMF said.

However, banking regulators see little chance that Congress would be able to pass these amendments swiftly.

Among the proposed changes to the BSP charter, which were included in the "Bank Bill of Rights" advocated by the IMF, were:

- To undertake risk-based consolidated supervision, which would allow the examination of banks as well as its subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied undertakings.
- To compel banks to infuse additional capital.
- To approve the transfer or acquisition of shares to a bank that would affect a change in the majority ownership, and
- To limit private NGO offshore investments from investors.

In the absence of the amendments, the authorities could engage banks having difficulties at an early stage and implement corrective action framework, the IMF said.

Bank loans remain sluggish, study shows

DEMAND FOR BANK LOANS remains sluggish partly because of the pullout of some multinational investors, an analysis by state-owned capital-intensive industries such as trading and business process outsourcing, a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas study showed.

In a new report "Trends and BSP Initiatives on Improving Bank Lending Growth" prepared in time for the 2006 national competitiveness summit, the BSP traced the issues behind the modest growth of bank lending in the Philippines.

According to the study, the demand remained sluggish because of the "transfer of multinationals to regional hubs where operating costs are lower."

With the emergence of mainland China as a manufacturing powerhouse, many multinational companies had transferred operations there due to cheaper labor and lower cost of doing business.

The industries that are recently expanding significantly, trading and BPOs, were said to need less capital than if the investors were to put up factories here.

Another factor cited was the increasing convergence arrangement for exporters of electronic products.

Firms other factors that led to the modest demand for loans were cited in the study: financial capacity, highly liquid position of many enterprises, and tapping of domestic and foreign capital markets by some top corporations to settle their obligations longer-term financing for business.

On the supply side, the BSP attributed banks' deliberate appetite to expand their lending activities to the following:

- Large inventory of nonperforming assets;
- Cautious stance following economic and political uncertainties;
- Credit standards are considered by most by borrowers;
- Lack of extensive database; and
- Adoption of prudential regulations.

The sluggish bank lending has in turn caused a decline in the country's competitiveness.

In 2006, the country ranked 40 lick out of 178 countries in terms of ease in access to credit, dropping from 90th place in the previous year, based on a World Bank group survey.

As part of an initiative to improve bank loan growth, the BSP has vowed to speed up capital market development to provide an alternative to bank financing, such as the promotion of the fixed income exchange, third-party custodianship and unit investment trust fund products.

The development of the credit information system, especially with the proposed Credit Information Systems Act, was also seen to benefit efforts to push up bank lending by improving the database on borrowers.

Doris C. Dumlao

Customs . . .

From page B1

address the government's yawning budget deficit. Taking effect in January this year, the law raised the rates to cover imported cigarettes and alcohol products.

Another issues cited for the lower-than-expected tax collection on cigarettes was the compulsory licensing order issued by the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court in May last year on the law's implementation in Subic, where most cigarette and alcohol imports pass through.

The court ordered that excise taxes could not be slapped on goods coming through Subic, being a freeport and considered outside Philippine territory.

The DOF subsequently told the government-owned to base at least P3 billion in potential revenues this year should the temporary restraining order set the Sin Tax Law be nullified for the whole year.

HK airline wants clear deal on Naia 3

By Riza T. Olchondra

HONG KONG AIRLINE CATHAY Pacific, which recently signaled with the acquisition of Dragonair and Air Hong Kong, said that it is looking forward to moving its operations to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminal 3 when it finally opens, but would want technical and legal conditions clarified before doing the terminal.

Even if Naia 3 construction gets finished by the first quarter of next year — a prospect not kept date with the Manila International Airport Authority is struggling to meet — Cathay Pacific may need more time checking the quality of the facilities and making sure that its own bumps, for example, would pass engineering tests.

The target capacity of Naia 3 would be a welcome development from terminal 1, said Philip Chen, Cathay Pacific chief executive.

"The additional capacity would certainly be good for our aircraft," Chen told reporters.

Also, Terminal 1 has become "rather tired," according to Cathay manager Vivian Lo. "And so, we are looking forward to the opening of terminal 3. But first we will, of course, make sure that terminal 3 is ready. When all technical and legal obstacles are cleared, we will then make sure we have stronger deal to have the value-added service of Cathay Pacific."

Naia 3 is only 58 percent complete and the pending construction work would be done in about 9 months to the tune of $6 to $8 million, MIAA officials said in an earlier interview.

Officials had said the MIAA is undecided the date of the facilities' handing over to the terminal. The airport authority is still in "final negotiations with the main contractor" of the construction work, which is Taisei-obayashi Corp. of Japan.

The contractor was tapped in June 2003 by MIAA to complete Naia 3 after taking over the grey bear the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco). The government released P3 billion in preferred payments to Piatco for the investments the company had made before its contract was voided.

Takenaka had stopped construction work at Naia 3 when the ownership of the terminal — and consequently the questions of rules has the responsibility is supreme and pay for the project — because the subject of an ferocious court case.

Now that MIAA has secured the writ of possession following payment of the P3 billion, Takenaka has recognized the authority as the legal party to negotiate with and has agreed to complete the pending projects.

Ayala Land to borrow ₱3B in '07 to pay debt

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA LAND INC. (ALI), the property leader and land manager for the Ayala conglomerate, said it has set to launch a new stall this year to retire debt.

Details have not to be revealed. It is also finishing its 96-billion 295,000 square meter Filinvest Corporate City, which may open by May next year.

ALI is also expanding its Ayala Center Cebu by an additional 11,500 square metres, and will launch a business process outsourcing campus in Cardalaing, Laguna by 2007.

The unique development spans 36 hectares and will include low-rise IT buildings, retail, commercial and residential developments.

Ayala's 100-hectare landbank is enough for at least 10 years of development.

ALI is one of the largest and most diversified real estate conglomerates with interests in high-end, middle-income and affordable housing segments.

It is also involved in shopping center development and operations, office building projects including build-to-suit business process outsourcing facilities, resort and industrial estate development, hotel operations, property management and construction.

As of June 2006, ALI's cash stood at P8.9 billion, assets at P183.8 billion and total debt at P113.3 billion.

Forex reserves . . .

From page B1

cents from the government's foreign borrowings, remittances of overseas Filipino workers and, to a certain extent, foreign direct investments and portfolio inflows.

The strengthening of the peso against the dollar in the past few months alongside the bullish regional currency market likewise gave the BSP the opportunity to build up its reserves while considering excess market volatility.

The peso, which sprinted the 49-$1 level for the first time in four years this week, has risen by nearly 7 percent since the start of the year.

Foreign exchange trading

of $10 billion equivalent to 3.9 times the country's exports, debt servicing requirements and banks' unrestricted reserves and 11.9 times based on residual maturity.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of one year or less plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Net international reserves, including revaluations of reserve assets and conservative adjusted liabilities, reached $31.31 billion as of end-September, or $47 million higher than the previous month's $31.26 billion.

Shares close flat

From page B4

Global Equities

However, he said overall sentiments remained positive, supported by good economic fundamentals.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the most actively traded stock, fell P0.5 to P2,106 on profit-taking after recent sustained gains. AFP

Solve labor mismatch, gov't, private sector urged

By Rainier M. Dacalajo

Japanese firms concerned over labor shortage, Jetro says

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO WORK closely with the business sector to ensure a more even match between available workforce and the needs of the labor market, according to the recent study of the Japan External Trade Organization.

The study, dubbed "Comparative Survey of the Labor Environment in Asian Countries: Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, China and India," showed that Japanese firms operating in these countries were usually concerned about the shortage of personnel, increases in wages and strict employment regulations.

"To help reduce human resource mismatch and job-hopping, the government and related parties are suggested to cooperate more with the business groups and learning institutions to create human capital with the right skills for jobs, such as foreign language ability and more practical skills," Jetro said.

Jetro said the poll was conducted between November 2005 and June 2006, and covered firms based in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, southern China and India.

The survey is part of Jetro's continuing cooperative efforts for better human resources development in Asean and to assist in observing investment environment conditions in the region as well as encouraging enchevlron to help improve the business environment.

Jetro found that the Philippines, along with Indonesia, has a high rate of unemployment, with demand for general workers not enough to absorb the supply of labor.

In the Philippines and Vietnam, the labor pool has an advantage in the informal/low technology sector, particularly in outsourced services, due to lower costs.

But Jetro said the country falls short on the supply of workers with technical skills—such as engineers and mid-level managers—as well as those who speak Japanese.

Further, Jetro said that while wages in the country and other Asean members were not rising as fast as those in China, "an upward tendency has been observed."

Two-thirds of the firms surveyed pointed to wage increases as their top concern.

They were also worried about attritionrates, such as lodging, security, childcare and accompanying benefits.

Jetro noted the downturned in the number of labor strikes in the Philippines and India, but also observed that most Asean countries have strict regulations in the hiring of employees.

Still, the country fared relatively better than its neighbors, considering that "a company in Thailand said it could not recruit workers with the minimum wage and had to increase allowances."

"In the Philippines, firms could employ workers at minimum wage without problems," the study said.

Jetro said governments have a number of options to improve the soundness of the investment environment.

Expanding incentives, such as tax privileges, to promote in-house training for employees could help the labor resource situation.

Another way is to establish more transparent labor-related systems that are implemented fairly, especially by considering the advances created economic integration in Asia," Jetro added.

The agency said such a system would promote the firms concerns about labor problems.

These include illegal strikes, dismissal (firing) systems that are too strict, and **foreigners employment systems that are too complex.**

Insurance companies press for gov't perks

By Michelle V. Ramos

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES WANT government to extend additional tax incentives to encourage more Filipinos to opt for retirement plans.

Jesse Corona, president of the Philippine Life Insurance Association (PIAL), said that the industry particularly is asking the authorities to allow employees to use an even deductible expense their own retirement or employer-sponsored plans that are purchased from insurance firms.

According to Corona, who is also president of First Commercial Life Insurance Co., banks are currently allowed to sell retirement plans that carry such an incentive, but insurance firms do not enjoy the same privilege.

PIAA said this was the reason why only a few insurance firms sell retirement plans. The group said that if retirement plans sold by insurance firms were to be given the same tax incentives as the ones offered by banks, then more wholesome retirement plans would be made **available for consumers.**

To level the playing field among financial institutions, the incentives **granted to the banking sector should** also be given to the insurance industry, PIAA said.

PIAA said it was supporting the passage of a bill that seeks to promote voluntary retirement plans in the public.

The Personal Equity and Retirement Account (PERA) bill, which has long been pending in the legislature, encourages an individual to open a personal retirement account or pension plan with a financial institution, which could also be an insurance firm. The bill grants tax privileges to anyone who will open a PERA.

The group said the PERA would help create a level playing field because the retirement accounts to be offered by a financial institution, be it a bank or an insurance firm, would be given incentives.

The bill states that individuals with PERA are granted a 5 percent tax credit. The tax credit would mean that if an individual has P50,000 as his or her account, then that person would be allowed to deduct P2,500 (5 percent of 50,000) from his or her tax liabilities.

The bill also gives an individual the option to deduct the amount of PERA savings from his or her taxable income.

The PERA bill, authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara, is supported by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The central bank believes that the measure would help mobilize savings and address the country's poor savings rate.

The savings rate in the Philippines, which stands below 20 percent of the country's gross domestic product, is considered low compared with the level of savings among its neighboring countries.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangosong

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Sent as your BonAppetit magazine has some type of the Frontpage on 2007 (Gallery or 383 Rooms)

WISHING to make things right, these young envoys try to learn courses on how to care the planet from further environmental degradation.

4 young environmentalists to represent RP in Germany

By Charles E. Rabao

FOUR YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALISTS from are headed to Germany as Philippine representatives to the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy program, an annual event where chosen college students from all over the world go on a weeklong study tour to experience how environmental protection is practiced by people, governments and industry in one of the leading countries with regard to technology and environmental awareness.

This year's batch of winners is composed of Alfredo Gerome A. of Isabela State University, Jennifer Lou Dellaro and John Ryan Bocaling both from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

For the first time, Cluzo winners have conquered beyond the metes of their province islands by presenting the environment. They have actually been required to implement their project ideas within a given period of time and at the same time presented before the panel of judges, the recipients of their respective projects, the challenges faced, and how each have managed to overcome obstacles," said Joseph Hernandez, Bayer CropScience Philippines country head during last week's meeting attended at the hotel InterContinental Manila in Makati.

Rice hull convert bonded blocks

Gerome, were the judges' nods for starting up with a methodology for making rice hull cement bonded block, which were later used by the communities of Gawad Kalinga in Solano Bulacan. Its technology not only provided livelihood but also for the cost-effective construction.

Dellaro presented an interesting study of earthworms as organic waste treatment into very high quality compost as an alternative to conventional agricultural wastes into organic fertilizers while Dellaro on his part, developed a device that removes residual nitrate from agro-vegetable products as in urban gardening.

Kasabay, on the other hand, launched an animal revision campaign in selected townships about the risks of soil erosion as the businesses in Pulawindak, Santa Cruz have said in the process brought the community and private sectors together to address the issue.

The four winners were chosen out of the 15 "environmental champs" who came on a four-day Eco-Camp in Clark field, Pampanga.

At the end of the Eco-Camp, the panel of judges composed of Executive Ram Emerson David, Mother Earth Philippines Ogden Alcantara, Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Manuel Gondo, Department of Science and Technology's Reynaldo Supanco and TV host Ces Drilon, headed by Bayer's Communication Chair Bambam Aquino evaluated each on each completed project.

Join counterparts

The four chosen will join their counterparts from Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Peru, Poland, Singapore, Thailand, Venezuela and Vietnam in Germany early next month.

Since the establishment of the program, more than 3,000 young people have submitted outstanding applications to take part in the all-expense paid trip and 100 environmental projects have been chosen to have been chosen in the course of the program.

"But the program doesn't end with the visit to Germany as the chosen representatives, not only in the Philippines, have demonstrated a continued passion for the environment long after their graduation from college, thus contributing not only to the environment, but also on society as a whole," Bayer EcoScience Asia corporate communications officer Reynaldo Gaanda revealed.

She explained that the BYEE program is the flagship initiative of Bayer and the United Nations Environmental Program (Unep).

The cooperation with Unep, Bayer organizes and promotes a number of specific projects which aim to improve knowledge about the environment among young people and support them in their environmental investments and the BYEE program is just one of those projects," Ganda said.

Initiated in 1998 as a local project in Thailand, the program included participants from the Philippines and Singapore starting 2001.

"The program was further extended to India in 2003, China in 2004, and Poland, Indonesia, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador in 2006, and Peru as well as Kenya in 2005. In 2006, Vietnam and Malaysia join the program for the first time," Bayer Philippines corporate communications officer Reynaldo Gaanda revealed.

Medical Files

Dementia

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

DR. MON MADAMBAN, a well-respected neuropsychiatrist based at the Santo Tomas University, is one of the staunch advocates in the problem of dementia. Some people often mean unawareness on a problem which literally erodes one's mental function.

Studying can be more elaborate. Being for a physician than to treat the memory impaired due to confusional and intellectual brilliance, slowly losing his mental faculties because of dementia.

Dementia is defined as a symptom complex characterized by intellectual function and other cognitive skills, with what the individual loses the ability to perform even simple activities of daily living. It is one of the most common causes of hospitalization and death among the elderly.

Prevalence

It is unfortunate that at the onset when signs of dementia are relatively mild, people consider it as part of the aging process, is usually even in its incidiously starting at the age of 60 although it may occur at an earlier age. In others, Somcare researchers report that the prevalence of dementia doubles every five years after age 60 until about age 90. Dementia affects only one percent of people aged 60 to 64 but 30 to 50 percent of those 85 years old or older.

Age-related memory loss though does not necessarily suggest dementia. The former is usually milder, not progressive, and there is no impairment in the ability to perform daily activities. In people with age-related memory loss, cognitive performance such as analytical abilities is essentially unimpaired, but they may be considerably slowed down. They know new information and recall previously learned information but do so less efficiently as when they were much

younger. But the important thing is that daily functioning is unaffected.

Although most people with normal cognitive aging do not worry, they should also. One researcher described if it becomes rapidly progressive. A good number of these patients with mild intellectual impairment that affects memory may develop dementia within three years. Generally, dementia requires a careful probe which patients with develop dementia.

Diagnosis

The physician usually makes a diagnosis by history and physical examination. Laboratory examinations may be identified, which are potentially reversible such as drugs, delirium or depression. Treating these may improve mental function and quality of life.

The more serious and irreversible causes of dementia are difficult to establish clinically and may only be ascertained during postmortem pathologic examination (autopsy), which is not usually done. Alzheimer's disease, the most common type, accounts for about 55 percent of cases of established dementia. Vascular dementia is probably the next most common type. The causes are mixed in many instances (i.e. Alzheimer's disease plus vascular dementia whereas the blood vessels are affected.

Natural history

The natural history may vary from one patient to another but usually the intellectual and mental functional decline progressively in a period of from 8 to 10 years. Depending on the severity of symptoms, dementia can be divided into mild (early), moderate, and severe (late). Patients may manifest personality and behavior changes during any stage. Depression is fairly common in dementia, usually with mood swings that are more pronounced, and may cause aggressive symptoms such as withdrawal, anorexia, weight loss and insomnia. The presence of depression in an elderly patient should always make one suspect dementia.

Because dementia patients generally lose their zest for life, their appetite declines and they lose weight. Metabolic control centers in the brain may also be affected. Loss of weight may be a prominent manifestation of dementia. Many depressive symptoms (sleeplessness, anorexia and other neurologic deficits may occur at different stages. They may occur early in vascular dementia and late in Alzheimer's disease. Delusions or hallucinations may also occur particularly in late stages. Elderly may have hallucinations, delusions, or paranoia and may be treated as psychotic patients, when in fact, they have dementia.

Asian experts on dementia will have a big congress on Oct. 19-21 at the Renaissance Hotel, hosted by the Dementia Society of the Philippines. Interested physicians and dement in caregivers may call the secretariat at 749-5930 or 0919-8442358.

Silent genes, loud Nobel

(First of two parts)

IT IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST IMportant fields of scientific research, based on a discovery years ago, and one whose effects the public was largely unaware. Though the media often reports on developments in stem cell research, its colored topics such as cancer, in AIDS, fewer news articles are focused on RNA interference. All the more reason why the awarding of the Nobel prize in medicine went to researchers Dr. Craig Mello of the University of Massachusetts Medical School for their work in, as the Nobel Foundation's "RNA interference - gene silencing by double-stranded RNA."

Some researchers trace the field of gene silencing's beginnings back to a paper by Britten and Davidson in a 1969 issue of the journal Science, where the writers suggest that ribonucleic acid or RNA plays a role in determining which genes are activated during the early stages of development. Still, everyone agrees that the real precursor to the Nobel work was the appearance in the 1998 issue of the journal The Plant Cell, where two groups working independently of each other presented some startling findings.

Napoli et al. and van der Krol et al. were working with petunias, trying to produce a particularly dark shade of purple flowers by overexpressing a particular gene involved in flower color. The idea was that increasing the gene copies in the flowers' DNA would make the genes work overtime, which only make the purple color more pronounced. This sounded good in theory, except that the plan backfired, and the researchers found themselves with petunias that had white flowers.

RNA interference

The explanation for this event was termed cosuppression, because the researchers learned, their work had actually suppressed both the transgenic and the petunia's own (wild-type) color genes, so that less color was produced instead of more, resulting in the white flowers. Still, the mechanism behind this phenomenon, as well as the implications of the discovery, remained a mystery until Fire and Mello's paper regarding the role of double stranded RNA (dsRNA) in gene silencing appeared in the journal Nature in 1998. The experiment they described, now referred to as siRNA interference or simply RNAi, is perhaps the one best understood today and one that next week's column will discuss in greater detail.

Suffice it to say, discovered that RNAi could target genetically any gene and turn it off. Fire and Mello's work became the cornerstone for several fields of research. In the biomedical field, researchers are looking at RNAi as a way of fighting viruses (including retroviruses) prone to persistent, which would mean tumor growth could be retarded for example, and viruses might not proliferate as rapidly as they do now. Likewise, drug companies are looking at RNAi as a way to target specific diseases related genes and treat illnesses more efficiently.

Interviews

Up on the Nobel Foundation's website (nobelprize.org) are audio files and transcripts of the interviews conducted with both Professors Fire and Mello after the announcement was made. Did they know how important their research would become? the Nobel announcers asked each other. Not quite. Not until they learned that homologues of the gene they'd cloned for that Nature paper were in practically every organism, Professor Mello answered. "That in turn was exciting. ... What drew me into the project, I wanted more to think, maybe some of the role of this type of silencing in evolutionary change, rather than simply as something involved in regulating gene expression."

Professor Fire was a bit more down to earth. "I don't think that is an important thing for anybody anymore," he said. "You know, it's obviously a great honor. ... In terms of expecting anything we've already gotten tremendous acknowledgment in the form of publication and recognition of our work and it, it wouldn't help me. I bet that we deserve anything more."

* * *

E-mail the writer at manolo@manolo.com.

Sr. Iluminada C. Coronel: tireless math educator

By Queenie N. Lee-Chua

EUREKA!

QUEENIE N. LEE-CHUA

IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, MY GRADE One son, Xiezl, was in Stella Klub representing his school in the biggest math fair in the Philippines, sponsored by the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines, Mathematik Foundation and the Department of Education. St. Bernadette Convent, Los ao., awake to take you to the classroom and interviewed groups previously with the parents. The day did with his proud speed and efficiency, which as his student, I was well-acquainted with, but my 7-year-old was so impressed.

"Mom," he whispered, pointing at Sr. Coronel's stall, "she is really a genius! I thought others taught religion only, but Sr. Coronel teaches math, too! Gosh!" Then there was curse on her, and Sr. Coronel promptly gave him a hug.

No ordinary teacher

Indeed, Sr. Iluminada Coronel is no ordinary teacher. As MAP president since 1997, she initiated many projects, from tent among them the annual national math competition for elementary and high schools. Under her guidance, MTAP also regularly conducts a program for in-service in public schools in the NCR, and a Saturday program for talented students (with another session for regular students) for schools around the country. These efforts have grown, and now there are nearly 100 centers conducting the Saturday program, with MTAP providing the facilitators and the learning materials.

Born on April 28, 1921 in Hinigaran, Negros Occidental, the graduated magna cum laude from the University of Sto. Tomas with a Bachelor of Science in Education, Major in Mathematics degree in 1942. She received her Master's degree in Math from the same in 1979 and taught there for decades until her retirement a few years ago. In fact, my son's initial assumption was not wholly wrong. For aside from college and graduate work, through the years Sr. Coronel also has taught high school English, science, religion, history, biology and even physical education...but only in the Philippines, but also in Hongkong and Macau.

Sr. Coronel was my college professor in linear algebra. She not only mastered the subject matter, but also could and did make everyone understand the concepts. She was patient and did not think twice about repeating an explanation for the benefit of slower learners.

Motherly man

But what I remember most is her motherly voice. One time, a classmate submitted a solution sheet full of scenario (how to multiply fast) in the papers was more some physics), with answers scribbled in light pencil. After harassing that pencil was common not the implication of choice the college sophomores. Sr. Coronel then returned on test time the sheets of work-out as to importance as the right answers.

She described her experience in teaching Chinese students, who solved math problems using brush and ink, and wrote their solutions in beautiful calligraphy. She did not expect us to accomplish the same feat, she translated in words, but surely, it is something to ponder. Also, it is worth listing until. Of course, she was right.

Various positions held

Sr. Coronel was the consultant for the Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE) from 1974 to 1990, and the academic supervisor of graduate students until 1993. She chaired committees to improve math education in the NCR from 1977 to 1988, and served on the Technical Panel for Mathematics Conference on Math Education in 1979.

A board member of the Math Society of the Philippines from 1982 to 1984 and of the Philippine Science and Math Council from 1982 to 1990, she has also been a member of the Foundation for Upgrading Science Education since 1998. She cofounded the journal Matimyas Matematika in 1977, and received an outstanding editor award in 1987. Sr. Coronel authored several textbook series: "Living with Math," "Living with Science," "Introduction to Algebra," "Math: An Integrated Approach" and "Algebra and Trigonometry Based on the 2002 BEC."

Lifetime achievement award

Last July, the Manila Association of Secondary School Math Head Teachers, composed of 30 schools, bestowed upon Sr. Coronel a lifetime achievement award, and were created the "Iluminada Awards" to honor their many outstanding teachers. In October it will be the turn of the Philippine Council of Math Teacher Educators (Matched) to honor Sr. Coronel.

Sr. Coronel has the energy of people half her age, and when I jokingly suggested what she would retire, she remarked serenely, "There are still so many things to be done." It is this day she continues studying seminar workshops for teachers, publishing the MTAP Bulletin, and organizing conventions and conferences. Sr. Coronel will not rest until every Filipino child has access to good math training, and to this regard, I agree with my son, "She is one great teacher." Gosh! Sr. Coronel, may the Lord continue to bless your mission.

E-mail the writer at queenie@gmail.com.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

BEST BOOTH, CORPORATE CATEGORY

Boracay Tropics Resort receives Triple A Resort Hostin Boracay recently won the Best Booth in the corporate category at the Philippine Travel Mart in SM Megamall. Andy Galicano, the resort's design consultant, who transported the resort's warm tropical feel, including one of the lush Asian Mediterranean architecture connected by an artful bridge over the resort's bathing basin shaped pool as captured by seasoned photographer Walter Villa. Boracay Tropics sales and marketing group headed by sales director Cheryl Pacheco and marketing consultant Jessie Canonizar meet with clients and guests at the booth's garden setting.

Model units opening

REDEEMED LAND CORP. ON EDSA CORNER ROOSEVELT UNVEILS fabulous model units at Level 1, Robinsons Galleria Mall. Jennifer Dalgan mall emcee.

Primarily designed to be the family's first condominium, Roosevelt is a gated mission condo development but everything a young family needs—40 percent open space and greenery, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, adult pool, children swimming pools, a village mall and only 10 minutes away by Ayala Malls.

Units are priced for as low as P1 million and are available in studio, two and three bedroom models. For more information call 636-8888, 0920-909-6888 or visit www.robinsonsgaleria.com.ph.

Erratum

IN THE ARTICLE "IT'S ALL ABOUT PEERING AT ANSLA WEST grave heights," published Sept. 23, the names of the sports celebrities who graced the event are Ronnie Ilarde Jacobo Castillejos and badminton ace Mia Ida and national champion Kenny and Gerardo Asuncion.

Also, the sports facilities that are part of the plans for the development include an indoor basketball court, lapping pool, children's center and putting green.

The preceding information was not included in the original press release provided by Ayala Land Premier.—ed.)

First 'giant' step to computerized land records completed

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has moved a step closer to his goal of restoring the integrity of land titles through the computerization of land records, with the completion of the first phase of the Land Management Bureau's (LMB) ecosystem computerization project.

Successfully completed at no cost whatsoever to the government, the project was undertaken for the LMB by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builder's Associations (Creba) under an innovative cooperative arrangement.

Landmark documents and titles, consolidated, are determined, recorded and maintained by the LMB are indispensable to the country's system of land ownership and titling, since these are used as the points or markers in establishing the official geographic position of titled lands, among others.

Preserving data

Crebe had flayed its cooperating with the project into motion by Environment Michael T. Defensor, to preserve the data in the paper-and-ink registries which were already disintegrating from the ravages of time, mold, intrusion, and most serious of all, from the hands of unscrupulous.

Crebe said its technical arm Crebe Land Systems Specialists Inc. (CLSSI) undertook the digital imaging of all the pages of the registries in order to preserve the original records, then created computerized registries by encoding the data for some 120,000 land lots maintained by nationwide.

Another free service

As another free service to LMB, Crebe Land also developed a Reference Point Management System (RPMS) software, complete with sophisticated utilities, by which LMB would speedily access the digital registry, query and update the data and issue certifications on geographic locations to the requesting parties. Crebe said it is also exploring ways to help LMB, again at no cost to the government, securely display the RPMS over the Internet in order to provide more convenient public access to the data particularly in the regions.

The digital cartesian registry together with the RPMS, housed in an IBM server donated by Crebe, was formally turned over to the LMB during the recent Crebe monthly membership meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Lauding Crebe for its generosity and professionalism, LMB director Ronnie L. Tiamson said the project is a giant first step toward attaining Reyes' 12-point action program, which includes improving land administration and effectively serving the public's needs. Tiamson said that pursuant to the secretary's desire to forestall computerization of all valid or valid existing old land records as a prelude to revision, reclassification and finally parceling them to order, he will continue to explore all cooperative arrangement with Crebe to speed up delivering those at the earliest possible time.

SM property arm to tap Filipino mart in Europe

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP. THE PROPERTY development subsidiary of SM, recently embarked on a trip to London to explore the UK market of Filipino-British and a huge community of expatriates and overseas workers.

SM Development joined the 22nd Ideal Homes Exhibition 2006 together with the Chambers of Real Estate Brokers Associations (Crebe) in the United Kingdom. The capital city of London alone is home to 120,000 Filipino-British nationals and overseas workers.

SM Development began marketing its residential projects there has been a clamor in the Filipino community to find out more about its product offerings. Both of SMDC's latest developments, the Mediterranean designed resort inspired Baliwag Homes and high-rise mid-rise residences Mezza Residences, have been well received.

"SM is a name Filipinos know and trust. When they see our projects' complete package of location, quality, affordability and exceptional investment potential, plus the solid foundation of the SM name, it becomes an easy and terrific, good choice," explains Julie Johnson, SMDC assistant vice president for sales and marketing.

A name Filipinos trust

SMDC has launched two very successful residential developments, catering to the middle-income market and both carrying the familiar SM name. Its first development was an old SM Supermall by modern project, Clarissa Homes, a master-planned community near SM Mexico named over Lafayette and Concorde buildings to owners early this year. Construction work on its third phase, Idillic, is currently underway and its newest cluster, Iris, is already open for reservation.

During 2006 alone is Mezza Residences, a high-rise condominium project, the first of its kind development in the Mezza Avenue area of Metro Manila. The condominium offers best value for living and investment, with central location and excellent amenities, including a shared bridgeway to SM City Sta. Mesa.

More residential projects

SMDC is also slated to launch more premium residential projects this year such as condominium developments in Baguio, Tagaytay, Quezon City and Muntinlupa City.

"With the success of its initial foray into the overseas Filipino market, SM is now planning to do more trips in Europe in the last quarter of 2006.

SM Development designs and creates homes and leisure and business projects for the active premium market segment.

Medical Center to open in Greenfield City

CREATING A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FOR business/commercial complexes to thrive inside Greenfield City in Sta. Rosa, Laguna is increasingly viable for new upcoming and even established businesses.

Today, it is set to extend valuable service to residential communities with the soon-to-be-completed Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center, a medical facility that aims to bring state-of-the-art technology and medical expertise within the area.

Says Celestino Medical Center president and CEO Dr. Jose O. Juliano, "We realized that there is a need for a hospital, strategically located in a place like Sta. Rosa. I was told that Greenfield City has available land, and I said this is a good place for a hospital because there are commercial, residential developments, and Tagaytay is nearby.

First structure

"At first, our investment thinking of a cost-effective way to serve CMC, but as the project matured, it became bigger and is now a seven-storey core basement, 150-bed tertiary hospital with a total floor area of 6,500 square meters. It is the first structure to be built in Greenfield Business Park of Santa Rosa City and it is big enough to handle their community's medical requirements," he said.

According to Juliano, CMC is the main owner of SLHMC and will initially be operating it. He will be the president and CEO of SLHMC. "We will have about 100 carefully selected doctors with diplomates that have

THE NEW Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center

DOCTORS Jose Juliano (seated) and Jun Juliano

pioneered privileged-in practice at SLHMC. We are looking at patients from Laguna, Cavite and Batangas as well as companies at the Laguna Technopark and communities in Sta. Rosa," he said.

Residents in nearby exclusive subdivisions people can just as conveniently avail the services of doctors in Luzon Hospital and Medical Center. According to Juliano, they are anxiously waiting for the completion of the hospital. SLHMC has also offered to provide ambulance service to the community. Normally, we will also enter with companies to the construction that are to be involved in keeping abreast in the hospital," he said.

Top-level hospital

Construction of the SLHMC started in August 2004. Juliano disclosed that its first two floors will be opened by September 2006. "This will include the 32 outpatient doctors' clinics, emergency room (ER), X-ray and all required rooms (medical imaging), the laboratory, ancillary services, pharmacy and the lobby. The third floor, which houses the operating rooms and the intensive care unit together with the ICUs floor's 36 patient rooms will be made available by October," he said.

Here each floor can accommodate a maximum of three clinicians. SLHMC can have about 150 active medical members.

Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center is considered a tertiary, or top-level, hospital. Dr. J. Enrico "Jun" Juliano, the managing director of Celestino Eye Center, an affiliated ophthalmic of CMC and also the SLHMC's medical director, emphasized.

SLHMC also has a modern dental, dialysis and rehab clinics. It also provides enough space to accommodate the different needs of the doctors. The dream and engineers have designed the building to withstand the strongest earthquake in the Philippines. They have experienced that it will be the last building that will remain standing after a strong quake.

The younger Juliano described his duties at the new hospital. "As medical director, I will be the hospital manager and the operations of the hospital will be under me. Dr. Rosario Naval has been appointed chief of clinics of the hospital and he will coordinate with the doctors on the policies of the hospital. The chief of clinics will be under the medical director.

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A golf city for different lifestyles

A NEW CITY IS JUST RISING, WITH the promise of a multitude of modern lifestyles. One of those will surely be yours at your favorite golf city.

South Forbes Golf City, conveniently located in Silang, Sta. Rosa, is the first project in the country ever to host diverse residential enclaves inspired by the best golf destinations in the world.

Three designs, in turn, are ideal for certain types of people and their families.

Colorful homes

The first enclave, South Forbes Villas, was inspired by the allure of the homes along the Spanish Mediterranean coast. These colorful homes come with golden accents, spacious and equally golden interiors designed by Ivy and Cynthia Alvarez. Naturally, the Villas are best for couples who want to live in a romantic setting as can be seen in the Alicante model villa.

Bali Mansions' resort-inspired interiors done by the Alicante option have also won rave from interested property buyers. Reminiscent of a spa, the luxurious units have a relaxing feel that is also impressive and individuals who want to unwind in a laid-back environment after a hard day's work. The Sosa Ibiza model mansion is the epitome of resort luxury in Bali Mansions.

The next, Tokyo Mansions, is the country's first Modern Zen-themed residential enclave. Straight lines and contemporary black and white elements make up these mansions. As such, these homes are ideal for the introspective and those who prefer minimalist interiors. The Verano will be the biggest model mansion at Tokyo Mansions.

Newest project

The newest project, Chateaux de Paris, boasts modern palaces at homes complemented by a golf course that has been modified to produce fairways between 12 property buyers can check out the Chantilly for a contemporary residence of French interior design. Those homes are best for individuals who want to live in a royal and regal fashion.

Meanwhile, Golf View Terraces is ideal for people who desire the comforts and convenience of condo living with a view of a top golf course. This condo will rise facing the magnificent fairways of the all-exterior 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club. Both standard and loft units are available for discriminating buyers.

To complete the lifestyle experience for individuals and their families, South Forbes residents come with a club house designed according to the theme of their particular development. For instance, the newly completed Villas Clubhouse follows the Spanish-Mediterranean theme, Bali Mansions buyers can also now enjoy the resort-inspired amenities at the Bali Mansions Clubhouse.

Free golf membership

As a bonus, each South Forbes lot or condominium unit investor gets a free golf membership to the 36-hole South Forbes Golf Club. This golf course was designed by no other than the International Management Group (IMG), Asia's leading golf course designer.

The free golf membership also entitles South Forbes member-residents to play and discount privileges in 42 top golf courses worldwide through the exclusive golf club of SM SportsClub.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE facilities made up of functional and fashionable pieces.

INTERESTED property owners can check out resorts living at the Alicante Villa.

Bali Mansions' resort-inspired interiors

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PROPERTY

Lito Cesar D. Mangawang

Araneta Center to set up IT park

GLOBAL IT giant Accenture has already set up an office inside the Araneta Center.

AS PART of its continuing transformation plan, Araneta Center is set to host BPO top players, including Apex, which is cyberpark.

By Charles E. Rubio

THE HUGE BILLBOARD AT the Quezon City Hall says it all: Mayor Feliciano Belmonte declaring the largest city in Metro Manila as the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) capital of the Philippines.

Indeed, with the majority of Philippine Economic Zone Authority-registered call centers now operating in Cebu, Cubao, Commonwealth Avenue, Novaliches, Ayala Boulevard and Timog Avenue area, the number is set to further increase as the Araneta Center is setting up its own IT park.

The Araneta Center Cyberpark will be located in an eight-hectare property where four- to six-story buildings (with each floor area measuring from 3,500 to 5,000 square meters) are being proposed.

"It has definitely transformed the world's corporate landscape, and the Philippines is no exception. Key cities and provinces of the country already have their own science and technology parks," said Araneta Group of Companies chair Jorge Araneta. "It's about time the Araneta Center, itself a leading hub of commerce, develops its own cyberpark."

Underdevelopment

But even with the cyberpark still being developed, farmers already welcomed Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, and a major player in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry which occupied four floors of the Gateway Mall.

The Manila-listed Araneta Customer Services Inc., a leading provider of integrated customer care and acquisition services and the first tenant at the Araneta Center Cyberpark.

Apex will have a 2,000-seat call center as part of its expansion in the country.

"Other key institutions in the BPO industry are now exploring the possibility of making Araneta Center Cyberpark as site for their corporate offices," Araneta informed.

Self-contained community

He added that with the completion of the cyberpark, Araneta Center will be a self-contained business community that encompasses shopping, dining and entertainment venues with the hustle and bustle of corporate life.

"With its accessibility and proximity to many development and trade areas, the Araneta Center Cyberpark is set to be the country's next big step toward being the IT hub of Asia," Araneta asserted.

He added that the BPO industry has made the country one of the most preferred outsourcing destinations of established companies abroad with the abundance of proactive and fluent English-speaking professionals.

Araneta Group recognizes the impact of technology in the country's economic and trends. "Hence, we have decided to participate in this growing industry and take advantage of the Philippines' coveted position in the global BPO scene by developing a cyberpark."

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KC Concepcion After the storm page C3

Steph Zubiri-Delfour's Honeymoon in Cuba page C2

Super! exclusive Ashton Kutcher says he's not cool page C3

Tals Diaz tackles how Advertising kills page D1

Henri Calayag's hair-looms

WHEN IT COMES TO HAIRstoring, no one else comes close to your mother.

Henri Calayag, or Mother H as he is fondly called by his "brats," has cared for the locks of the likes of Kris Aquino (he "hung out" her L. Shawn Cunnie ("I'd like to thank Henri Calayag for my hair and makeup," she said to say during her Miaron Cuneta Show pink) and Sen. Gatchetree Bolivar (he Wan- blacked her hair).

Which as I do not like to eavesdrop, the list of his clientele reads like a page off a celebrity A-list casting coup (Charlene Gonzalez-Muhlach, Karen Tadorro Legislacruz, Pia Guanio and more). And that's just five show biz.

He started with Martin Stevens at Watershow Live! back in the '80s and segued to attending to megastar Shaun Cuneta's makeup and tresses during her variety show heyday.

His fashion and beauty portfolio dates back to the days of Inet Ince's debut and all of Inno Sotto's earlier shows. He attends collaborations with Neal Oshima, Jun de Leon, Wig Hermann and many other artists and photographers have defined a generation of underground designers.

He's been cutting Samantha Schapis's hair since she was 11, and was behind Tina Marie Arka-Arampo's countless transformations. "When I first join on my makeup, I never mean to create it because it looks so good," says the style icon.

He even went beyond the local celeb sphere when he crafted the Paloma Picasso and made up the Miss Rimmel when they visited Manila years ago. We all the above mentioned names that had top his mother created are just some highlights of his multi-layered career. The son of his 26 year success in the industry is how he truly nurtures the crown-

Tim Yap

ing glory of this royal coup.

"I grow one each joy when I see my clients happy," Mother H shares this strand of assessment as he cuts my hair at his sanctuary, Salon de Buenas, where the topcoat stops.

I should know. Because if my hair history has made brush cuts and slanted cut bead lines, it's all because of the artistic skills of Henri. My Mother, the hairs.

It was more than a casual trip to the salon. Every squeeze of lotion takes me to a place of happy thoughts and good memories, where my siblings and I (and Mother) are a lot of us (yes it's true) for the short love of our Mother H.

"When I cut their hair, I feel like I cut deeper into their psyche," Henri relates. "It goes beyond aesthetics, that's why I get attached to them." And vice versa. I share the spotlight with my client's loyalties. Celine Lopez, Jenn

MORE P3

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Cuba is not a destination but an experience

The Cuban Experience

By Steph Ezdel-Bellaar

TWO OFFICIAL CURRencies exist in Cuba, the Cuban Peso and the Convertible Peso. The Cuban Peso is worth virtually nothing and is used by the locals to buy food at state run agromercados or to pay for some transportation. The Convertible Peso is also practically worth nothing to the international currency market because you can not convert it outside Cuba territory. However, within the country, it is very powerful and worth over more than the US Dollar. Therefore most tourists, and naturally, the Convertible Peso is the imperative currency for tourists and for some locals who wish to augment their purchasing power. These two currencies represent the power wealth divide in Cuba. Two worlds separated by a thin but solid glass wall between tourists and Cubans.

The real Cuba

The real Cuba is not a destination but an experience. It is a country where one can get easily trapped in a pseudo Disneyland type of resort, where instead of passing with Mickey, you greet with one of the most traditionally dressed Cubanas, mamitas or even Castro. It is not a carefree, idle voyage but a real adventure. The best way to see Cuba is to leave your resort (and why would we unless dancing lajas while practicing all of a real Cubano. This way prove to be difficult. The government likes its best to enforce restrictive apartheid, in which they prevent the mingling of tourists with locals. Examples are the separate boards for Cubans and foreigners, the prohibition of foreigners taking in private cars, and the watchful eye of the officious police who may recklessly ask for your papers on a bus.

Now then may we see the real Cuba? It is quite easy, if you know a bit of Spanish that is. Make yourself some Cuban friends. There may be some risk of finding the wrong friends or simply being taken aback by the poignant circumstance of their daily lives. It is one of the last true blue (red) communist countries today. But as with any adventure, you must take a chance. Cubans are extremely warm people. They love to find out about the world outside their communist cocoon. Almost every bartender, taxi driver, tour guide or merchant knows a thing or two and discovers the world through you. He'll want to know where you're from, what your country is like, what you do, why you're there.

One woman was surprised to hear I was Filipina...but said I was the only Filipina he's ever met. Cuba apparently is quite familiar with our Filipino seafarers, who by the way have a very good reputation.

Cheaper and charming

You also must avoid staying in hotels and instead stay at casas particulares. These are private homes that have authorization from the government to board people for a small fee. They prove to be much cheaper and much more charming than the state owned hotels. Our landlady, Mirtha, was our Cuban mommy and cooked the best fried plantains in the world. Her family gave us much better tips on where to eat and what to see than any of the fliers (yes, those!!!) guidebooks we had.

Our trip started with one week in Havana and then we drove to Trinidad where we stayed one week there. We were going to continue on Santiago de Cuba and we realized that it was more than a thousand kilometers away! We decided to save that for another trip. Havana is a zip from an old 1950's MGM flick where everyone

Honeymooning, Steph and Victor explore Cuba

suddenly pressed pause, with the Chevy caught running in slow motion in front of the capitol. The architecture is beautiful and enchants you from the rundown feel of the whole atmosphere. The music is infused in the air and in the souls of the people. At each corner, you as we imagine, summon to dancing or singing. This is not just for tourism's sake but this is what actually keeps them alive. It runs in their veins. The city is full of surprises. Treat your instinct and not the tour guides. The nicest looking place in the guidebook may turn out to be filled with insecure (glorified) prostitutes and the most mediocre, crappy-on-every looking place may just be 10 th place to be. Victor and I noticed up in a small, dilapidated hole in the wall called Casa de la Trova where we heard the voice of a beautiful black angel. A woman singing. Cuban classic accompanied by a fellow with a guitar enchanted us and—the view of the Un mas uniform there, 50 percent of whom were above 70 years old.

One-man service

Aimet was a lovely paladar in existence in someone's private home) recommended by my so-long Brian Lamont. The house and all its exquisite colonial furniture were culturally well preserved. The food was excellent and so was the one man service, worthy of Don-star-French hotels.

The drive to Trinidad was long. Mostly because we got lost several times. The highways are impeccable, with absolutely no cars, nor absolutely no signs. It took us two hours to figure out we were going in the opposite direction. Humorous though were the propaganda billboards. Petrie e muerte, Fine Fida! in bold letters and my personal favorite, a picture of Bush dressed as Hitler. One of the highlights of Cuba is the political ambiance. We were present during Castro's illness and enormous was persuaded that the Americans would invade any minute.

Trinidad is a beautifully preserved colonial town and has earned the Unesco World Heritage status. Our lovely friends, Lenny and Ana, showed us the proper way to mine hotels a giant cave dance. Yes, a natural cave area turned into a club. Dancing among the stalactites was incredible. The acoustics were amazing. We also had our most incredible meal in the home of our friends. Giant fried rock climax, drumbaked scissors with tomato, green cane cooked risotto in a tomato pineapple sauce and, of course, caviar of rice cooked with red beans and cumin. And lots and lots of fried bananas.

Our cousin Cuba

Cuba is not too exotic for the Filipino. I've come to the conclusion that Cuba is our Latin, communist cousin. She shares the same Spanish colonial history the same American period, the same vegetation and climate. They love to sing, dance, eat and do it all with the family. I felt so close to them. What is then the point of visiting Cuba? Cultural and personal tourism. The exotic music and food, not to mention the nipples, daiquiris and my new discovery the cuba libre (honey, lime and rum) make up the list, once more. However, visiting Cuba has a more profound impact. The people live differently. There is no real private property nor assets, money isn't worth that much and the people have an obvious lack of freedom. They cannot leave the country unless they're sent by the state for work. They must show up to rallies and communist meetings lest they have trouble with their job. On the other side of the coin, each person has state basic needs met. They are fed by a small food that affords them as many bites of rice and the like per month, even rum and cigars. They have free education and healthcare. They also have a roof over their heads. There is no real economic dire, everyone is more or less equal. This is where the point of reflection comes in. What is more important in life, freedom or security?

These are the things we encounter only on the other side of the thin glass wall. The abundant hospitality of the Cubans, their ability to enjoy life to the fullest despite their less than privileged condition and their uncanny industry to us Filipinos. It is no doubt not the usual luxurious destination on the planet but one of the most eye-opening and fulfilling experiences. You have a more understanding person. We took good friends and great memories. Privileges on Cuba is still waiting for us to return.

Henri Calayag, uncut

THE THING ABOUT HAIR IS THAT ... I LIVED IT!

The thing I have most about what I do is ... playing and manipulating hair.

People might be surprised to know that ... I'm gay.

The most important thing I've ever learned is ... not to take things and me's and to let go. We are friends.

I wish when I started off I've been told to ... let it be's.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... I was caught in bed with another man by my lover.

And what tonight this to me was ... to be loyal, faithful and determined.

The secret to happiness is ... life itself.

My best ever outfit I wanted of ... is an by of the best outfits I've ever worn. I have like over 50 years.

My Super Saturday night exercise of ... my friends as my friends and my great accessories like Dec.

The soundtrack to my life would include ... [illegible] fantastic.

If I was invisible for a day, I would ... [illegible] and I was friend her.

If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I would still be nice but super powerful.

The best thing about being me ... togetherness and colleagues. **When I'm gone, they'll probably say** ... I was a mother to all of them.

When I retire, I would like ... a big house so I can enjoy my friends and my small creations and take care and guide them.

The world would be a much better place if ... if everyone is all about the love.

My fears is ... to live my because he is my fiancee.

The thing that makes me like myself being is ... my craft.

My greatest hope for the future is ... no more politics.

The worst thing somebody said about me was ... I was making.

My favorite moments are when ... Having private quality time with my friends and having one-on-one talks with one of my staffs.

My most embarrassing moment ever when ... I called someone a different name.

I'm saving up for ... old age.

My biggest extravagance ... was out!

My current state of mind is ... to stay a float in my career.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be ... Jim Carrey.

My favorite motto is ... Shoot!

I aspire to be ... always a better version of me.

Henri Calayag's hair-looms

Pomegranate #1

Eggcentric, Baby Lion, Sweety de Leon-Gonzales, Apples Aberin-Andhersai, Wanda Lumidden and more, who flock to his salon not just for some pampering but also to get our daily, weekly or monthly D dosage.

You see, there's in the salon's mind, like tall, our lies in transforming his creative home in the heads by touches. Somehow when you see on the floor (chair, leaving a part of you cut off, he explorations the lost locks with glam does, leaving you transformed. Whereas other stylists are happy to give you the same time look for the next 10 years, Madam H is an artist looks 10 years ahead, reinventing you each time.

In this exclusive Xipot! spread, we trace Henri's roots via a photo gallery...amongst highlights of Henri's life from being a chubby queen to queer mother.

Now 51, Henri is wiser and still hungry to express his life-long vocation. "I love to work and write blood because of the exchange of energies. I want to know that I can be at par with them," he self-deprecatingly adds. He goes on to enumerate a list of people he would like to thank in his 26-year career, and people whom works he admires.

"Life is about energy, symmetry and love," he proceeds to take off my robin cape and showcase a tattoo, yet he is the one who cares reflective.

Indeed, Mother knows best.

Life with all its sugar and spice sounds yum to me

Milenyo, Marilyn, Joe Malone and the moral of this story

NO DRAMA, REALLY. Just rest," my Tita says when her open-mouthed look in lovely Laguna. Little did I know I was uttering what is said to be the biggest typhoon to hit Manila in over a decade.

Uprooted trees

My Filipino living abroad mostly heard about the thousands of trees uprooted all over, tens and tens of hundreds of trees with their roots up in the air—even in seemingly sublime places like Legaspi Village, Salcedo Village, Forbes, Alabang, Newgreen, Heights but Mil mang Jo another and disembarking window.

And though some people were lucky to have minimal losses, a five-day power outage, collateral damage to some, flying fastfood signs damaging cars, people without food and water had been left more than a week after the storm, who would have known?

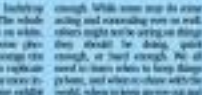
After three and a half years of living in the province of sorts, I knew that my family and I remained chaotic. We spent much of our week praying for electricity, water systems, homes, minds, families, lives and luxury blanks to be restored. I have to admit, though, that I was in the process of visiting friends in Manila a few days before, sharing my escape to photography exhibits and galleries' inspiration. To feel better about such indulgences, I convinced myself that I could just bear my mere saying to me now, "Thank you so much for a spot of

Park and beauty and eat. I haven't had power for four nights now and although moonlight lushes my taste, I see more when I take cold lemon-lime showers." Strawberries showers. I hearbeat storms.

All of us have high points and low points in our lives and who is going through better or worse is not really the point. For all of us, there are things we really need to not see, our brain needs to absorb what happened, our soul needs to eat it up. This is when you know that to live and you will have to help yourself make a choice, and to choose a direction. Are you going to continue with your frustrations? Are you going to be happy? Are you going to purely rotund? by helping somebody else deep below today?

Marilyn

Joe as answer would be to unexpectedly intensive and violent, to avoid other things. In a photo exhibit at the Ayala Mall[s], name the last check you [also] of Marilyn Monroe's draping over a [hanging] body, fabulous white lamb nudity stained with drops of red wine. All those could have been done again then a suicide would happen a week later. But, couples, nobody bothered to look hard enough. Maybe we don't have enough, or empathize



enough. While some may do some acting and succeeding now on reality, others might not be acting at things they should be doing, quite enough, or hard enough. We all need to learn when to keep things private, and when to share with the world, when to keep an eye out and when not to meddle. Some things are better left unsaid, other things deserve to be immortalized—in photos, in songs, in spirit—extraordinarily immortalized after Marilyn will forever remain the best.

Joe Malone

On a "lighter note" it is sometimes important to take things in with some humor and a grain of [perfume]'s salt. Some may say I am a late bloomer when it comes to discovering British perfume brand Joe Malone, but perusing through the perfume boutique I dare say the pleasure of discovering that, which others may not be entirely aware of. To all fashionistas, be said before, this perfume is actually born again, one here in Iloilo then in the US from where the brand and product originate; a bottle may be worth 60 euros to Iloilo and 100 pounds upon London! The concept of it is that customers are provided the opportunity to connect their own personal fragrance. The boutique does become a safe space where one may try out and mix and matching of various fragrances becomes possible with the end goal of being able to stand out in the crowd, quite possibly with your own mixed up high, blistering through Grapefruit Lime and Peruvian Vanilla, Fig and French Lavender. I noticed that you score that had the word "Friends" in it. I would love to have a perfume named Friends [maybe]. I then contacted a local Friends Lime House to make my young girl-to-grandma needs, updated the ask on my online query [as to remember are an obligatory Annunciations is at any regulatory and customary] a relief would be the yummy high light of the evening.

Victoire de Castellane

Another important fact to know is that Victoire de Castellane, designer of Dior's perfume line, LORIS DIORIST. Coming to her purely artistic skills will at France's five department store, Le Bon Marché, I doubted she ever got stressed with words with all that magic and the means to attract various parents. On a serious side, a more pleasant is there one was with her baby bump and quirky clothing, pointing to her video and other elements saying, "Ya, it's in, it's in, it's in, it's in!!!"

I am about to use one of her memorable French Oasis [note] while [also] stunned with a fateful image of fancy rings, candy wrappers, and cereal previous named bewildered and thinking to myself: When you find yourself wanting this, that, and oh, that other thing, this is when you know you are going completely crazy, that your crazy is reasonably acted thing, but we all have to admit that we can hardly ever be all things for all people. All are having a sense of the many sides of work, love, life, there will come a point somewhere where you will have to make a choice, when it doesn't hurt such my sense, which path is more valuable for me to follow? From where you are, you just have to stop and think, am I going to stay, or am I going to go? Once you decide, you then have to think of how to stay, or how to leave. Knowing I have will be a tipping point seeking to be resolved, and once you reach it, it's up to you to decide whether or not to look back, and when you're tired of thinking at all, then you just go where the feet takes you, let some things go, and allow them to flow to where they will. Get hurt, enjoy the chaos, and through it all try to keep still. "Seaside yum," Victoire might say. Well, life with all its sugar and spice sounds pure to me.

In the course of the story is this: when you rock take the stress, instead of resorting to some shrill sort of eating the scientist, just run out in the streets and make the neighborhood. Or you can just take shower, deal with your situation, pacify yourself and vent out. You have to make a choice, after all, and at the end of the day, it's got to be yours. And trust will really help you sort it through, which is something you've just got to have resolved to do.

I was about to sleep when I still scribbled notes on my write and the last line of French Lime. And with just one whiff, for whatever it was worth, the world need still while I thanked God for our calm evening, and our good afternoon.

Magic and Realism in Bohol

Tats Dua
Photos by Rhodee Sibal

I LEARNED A FEW secrets while on a bus cruising through Bohol on weekend. One of them was the secret of the ube.

Over the Bohol[ano], who believe, the ube to be the source of youth. The secret lies in an age-old broth. The ube must be planted by a woman under the light of a full moon. "It not just any man can ingrease would do, the husband has to be such-and-such, full, large breasts. The moon must, choose fitting fronts can also plant the ube alone, as in the blanket of night, and it must be fully naked. As she does this, she chants, "Ganda ito, ganda ito, kapag ako'y ube." Then you're [ready]. Visayan Island's [largest] secret of growing such [exploited] purple roots.

Apparently a similar planting ritual is done with rattans, except in this case it's done by a [group] of well-endowed men. Now [that], I'll let you young readers [take] it [from here].

Bohol is just blessed not just with [fertile soil], but an even more [fertile] imagination. In fact, I'm [willing] that had Lewis Carroll [stopped] here before, he would [have] found another sort of wonderland. The author would have [been] a slightly different story [to] tell.

It's not just magical. Instead of writing about a strolling Chester, he'll probably be charmed by the fairy, enchanting with eyes of turtles. Or he'd be inspired by the story of the fresh, miraculous healing waters that flow into the middle of the Inabanga church by the sea, where Christians once hid from marauding pirates centuries ago.

In this island, there are enormous hills, more than a thousand of them, that resemble gigantic Hershey's kisses side by side. Legend tells that these hills were formed by two feuding giants who battled each other by hurling rocks, sand and boulders. A more romantic legend says that a young and powerful [name called] Arogo fell in love with a mortal woman named Aloya. When Aloya died, the giant shed great tears, and where these dried up, they formed the world-famous Chocolate Hills.

There are stories everywhere, and people live by these tales that blend the real and fantastic. Our host, Gadi is strong, and magical realism is loved one.

Sea Food Diet

What actually brought us to this magical land recently was a little dose of reality—the need to [continue] our conservation projects and eco-tourism efforts in Bohol. That, I became a chosen passenger who had tagged along with the [numbers] IRRRC staff and World Wildlife Fund [volunteers] on their annual nature trip.

Of Giant's tears, oyster feasts, and naked planting by the full moon... welcome to Bohol, where everyone believes there's more to reality than what it seems

Every year, the big-hearted global [resource] venture call to areas in the Philippines where conservation [projects] achieve by WWF to support environmental awareness and promote social responsibility.

One of the latest attractions of the island's [conservation] such a preventive stance in making good use of the [natural] resources. Balicasag Island, a once village in Panglao, along the [snaking] Cambuhat River. The eighty-plus villagers have come up with their own blueprint for sustained living. Through their unified efforts, they have put together an eco-tour package that offers a boat ride through the Cambuhat river, that leads to a [subterranean] seafood feast of oysters, crabs, shrimps and [crabs] by the river bank. Even here, Lewis Carroll would have "talked of many things," and perhaps compared his famous Oyster rhyme, inspired by the endless [seafood] of fresh, anonymous oysters in front of us. Heck, even I [wanted] to write sonnets about it! The Balicasag Seafood Dribbles have [created] an alternative income-generating livelihood by growing and harvesting these oysters. After smelling ourselves with the splendiferous [seafood], the villagers then entertained all the guests with a cultural dance that [showcases] their [native] love, a fine, powder-like substance that become a source of local values. World War II broke out before. But it also used for making soap and clothing.

Honey, it's home

In Bohol, I had [discovered] a land of [hills and] honey Quite literally in fact, since we found our weekend [sanctuary] in the lush and picturesque Bohol Bee Farm on Panglao island. The [stunning] [view] of [sapphire] and aquamarine waters meeting clear skies provide a dramatic backdrop to the island scene.

The Bohol Bee Farm it yet another example of sustainable living. The Queen Bee is Vicky Pal[ileo], who has cultivated a little organic community here, the only one of its kind on the island, which advocates organic farming and sustainable agriculture. Of course, what's a bee farm without bees, right? I got up close and personal to the honey combs and found out what the buzz was all about.

The tranquil landscape [when] I have dubbed as "Pine"[] land on the [radio] to those [in the colony of bees busily making their honey.] I was pretty much [set] to how [fun] could fun-lovely talk about the secret life of bees while there were about a zillion of these stinging creatures flying about their heads like they could send me to my death. I [was] not that [cool], I found out that one bee makes only a fraction of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. What's more, only one thing—for every single cup of coffee I had taken with honey, thousands of bees have refused up their life's work just to make things less bitter. How [sad is sweet].

Rock the Boat

To all the highlight of this island exploration was the river boat cruise through Loboc River. Who says outdoor dining have to be on land? Bright flowers are festooned around the gently sided boat that can host a mobile [farm] on water, for the in-boat entertainment, we were serenaded by a local musician, [whom] I had dubbed as "Bohol Idol"! This Bohol Idol had, well, rocked the boat with his rich renditions of rock classics. [Bohol is in Bohol!]

His voice still haunts the speakers in my head. If for one particular song that was a Bicol tribute to the seasons, it was "Cool Change," by aptly enough, the Little River Band. Like the flocks of [fireflies] reflecting on the waters, the lyrics illuminated [often forgotten Thoughts]. Now that my life is in [permanent] flux, I [realize] that this for a cool change, so the song [went] and lingered in my head.

It is always time for a cool change, perhaps for this trip it was a change in perspective, in being able to look at our realities in [perspective], and to [realize] that of magic can of it. If I have taken something out of Bohol and its people, it is this lesson. I did say I learned a few secrets on this island!

XTRAORDINARY TIMES

Saturday, October 7, 2006

EXCLUSIVE - UNBELIEVABLE - AMAZING - OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD

STRANGE BUT TRUE: A COLA THAT'S ACTUALLY GOOD FOR YOU!

NEW TEAZZ IS GREEN TEA WITH A FIZZ.

There's a phenomenon that can be sighted all over town. It's called Teazz. This amazing drink combines the fun and fizz of cola with the healthy goodness of real green tea.

UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE?

MORE AMAZING FLAVORS!

COLA LITE, LEMON AND RASPBERRY

GREEN ALIEN SIGHTED!

KAMIKAZEE VOCALIST'S SECRET IDENTITY REVEALED.

THE FRONT MAN OF POPULAR ROCK BAND, KAMIKAZEE, IS BELIEVED TO BE AN ALIEN LIVING AMONG US. JAY CONTRERAS WAS RECENTLY SPOTTED REVEALING HIS ALIEN FACE IN THE NEW TELEVISION COMMERCIAL FOR TEAZZ, THE GREEN TEA WITH A FIZZ.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS BY KAMIKAZEE:

TEAZZ TRIVIA:

COLA IS NOT A KIND OF DRINK. IT'S A FLAVOR THAT COMES FROM A COLA NUT!

Super

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Kill Bill Board

Heed the writing on the wall and bring back the sky!

Tats Chua

THERE WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING strange, but oddly beautiful in the skyscape that day.

I was driving along the highway and for once, the traffic moved! The sky seemed to open up to me in the horizon. What was so different about that morning, I asked myself, wondering if I had unmistakably taken a double dose of caffeine in my cup of joy. I realized thereafter that there were giant things that were physically absent, taken down, and subsequently processing that they should never have been there in the first place. The ubiquitous billboards that now blighted the metropolis.

Yes, it was the first time I had hit the road since the super typhoon "Milenyo" ravaged Manila. It had in fact blindsided Noynoy's switch to make the public realize that those billboards were not only hideous, but are also wreaking dangerous. They distract motorists, they camouflage the blue sky, and when winds over 210 kph blow, they happen to fall on people. Apparently, eighteen can fall.

The writing on the wall

Sometime ago, we ran an editorial in Super! about Manila's ever evolving rightification process, largely due to those maddening billboards that are not just erected anywhere to open spaces and on tops of buildings, but in every nook, cranny, post and pole of space or existence, lamp posts, overpasses and bridges. Even one name have become moving advertisements! I'm surprised those advertisers haven't thought of using traffic aides as advertising channels yet.

As if having to deal with the exasperating traffic wasn't bad enough, I have to re-juice back it all up and brush myself to the onslaught of ads and announcements assailing my senses. Every nano-inch of pocket inside the Okaloosh van is crammed-shoved in your face, from cell phones and cell phone networks, shoes, adult diapers, whitening lotions (yes!), cars, car insurance, condominiums, and finally, bodies beside that ironically display an alarming lack of fashion sense. Some of these billboards don't even pass Grammar 101, like this toothpaste ad that proclaimed, "White teeth is easy" (Sic!!!)

There are some billboards that particularly stand out in the horrid way. One such ad features a close-up of a super-looking model, all dangling arms and legs of her, announcing, "Achieve upto a beautiful skin." Is sure definitely beautiful and sexy—if you're into sexualizing. Along the subject of paintings and models, there's also the seemingly endless parade of Kris Aquino's plaster-coloured face blemishing the landscape, endorsing everything from body alternative methods to skin whitening aids to shopping malls. Along the subject of indecent and inappropriate suggestiveness, doesn't anyone else get horrified with the gigantic signs put up by the government's reputedly huge farms of nearly-pubescent public officials, or a faraway looking Sen. Ejercito announcing some public works project to usurp us that our taxes are going somewhere? Well, I'll be damned, I for my own is sure straight to the production and installation of the billboard-tight clause, no?

If I don't sound like a mere a harmonizer of our collective IQs, aesthetic sensibilities, and popular culture, then I believe we've got a bi-sensory about.

Yeses and nos

Will billboards' destructive winds signal winds of change to well? Now that the public has a decent perspective on these horrible, destructive things, there was a growing, thunderous chorus to support the Anti-Billboard Act, Senate Bill 1713, or to at least regulate billboard placement according to safety [and hopefully aesthetic] standards to maximize, the big business billboard have until find, claiming that banning them was against freedom of speech. Some ran-over-even-some one-on-TV the other day saying that it's not just billboards that fall on people, using wind and electric poles also fall [Sic-mental] on people—if we're to prohibit billboards, then all wind-vulnerable and electric poles should be banned, and electricity gone as well. At that moment, I kinda wished there was a law that fell on liars. Or that there were more I would singularly whisper myself to find 19 names, and subsequently slap him.

I wanted to be more supportive of spending up the Anti-Billboard Act. Do it for the safety of our citizens! And bring back the blue skies!

FOXTROT — BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN — BY JOS ARRIOLA

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BARON — BY PH. JUNIOR

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEHOLTS — BY ELIZABETH CHOVALD

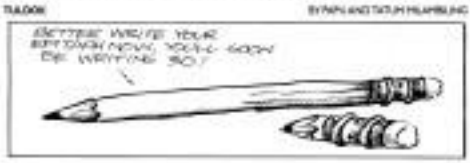
ATOMO AND WEEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANUNAS

BIRD MACHINE — BY MARK ARIOLA

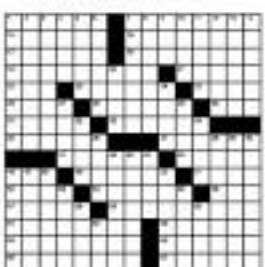
HEROSCENDOS — BY JORGE TEJIDO

TULOOK — BY PAPA AND TATUM HILARIBILJAC



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		3	6	7				
	6				1	8	7	
	8							9
	1							7
5								2
9							8	
2							1	
	4	6	5				2	
				9	4	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	8	3	7	4	6	2	5	9
6	7	2	3	1	5	4	8	3
9	4	5	8	6	3	2	7	1
4	3	1	2	8	9	5	6	7
2	9	7	5	3	4	6	3	1
5	8	6	3	7	1	9	2	4
8	2	9	1	5	7	3	4	6
7	5	4	6	2	3	1	9	6
3	1	9	4	9	8	8	7	2

★★★★

The talented Mr. Kutcher

SCENES FROM "THE GUARDIAN." This powerful film is a must-watch.

I WANTED TO TEARS HAVE TO BE CURE

By Mister Lipwurdi

IT'S NOT JOUGHESTHOLE OF HIS CAREER. Ashton Kutcher stars as Jake Fischer, a young surgeon volunteer who joins the elite American Coast Guard, convinced that he can't fail to be the best. Physically there's no question that Hunter is equipped to do the job but is he equipped emotionally? Rightly overconfident, he quickly proves that he can beat all the other students who are training to be rescue swimmers. But he fails to register the emotional toll that the job takes on Randall, Kevin Costner's legendary instructor who has relocated himself from active service to a post in their former school in Yorktown, Virginia.

Directed by Andrew Davis, "The Guardian" provides a unique insight into America's courageous rescue swimmers.

Ashton Kutcher, 28, grew up in Iowa on a farm with his family. He had big dreams of becoming an actor in the University of Iowa, he studied biochemical engineering but left school to pursue modeling. In 1998, he landed the role of Michael Eriksa in the hit TV show, That '70s Show. He certainly has gone a long way since then. Ashton is also co-owner and producer of the hit HBO series Punk'd and has starred in a variety of films like's Guess Who, The Butterfly Effect, Dawn Of The Dream, Just Married and A Lot Like Love's. He also provides the voice of Shrek in the new animated film Open Season. Ashton is married to actress Demi Moore.

Can you describe your character?

I play Jake Fischer, a very insecure guy who compensates by appearing as overconfident, but inside he really wants help and has something that's happened in his life that is traumatic. He's a man who has a very strong personality and does not really want help from anyone. He believes that he can do it all himself. But he realizes eventually that he needs to ask for help.

What's the relationship like with Kevin Costner's character?

Kevin becomes a father figure, a mentor for my character, but at the same they are in competition with each other.

What was the appeal of this role?

I really wanted to do an action film and "The Guardian" was a complete departure from anything I had done before. I was also looking for the chance to work with actors who I could learn from, who I could look up to. It was great for me to get the chance of working with Kevin Costner. I have always admired him and I've been a big fan of his for a long time. Also it was great for me to get the chance to do a film about the Coast Guard, because their story are not really been told before and they do such an amazing job. It was a gift to me to spend time with these individuals and get to know them as people.

How did you prepare for this role?

You cannot train for such a complex role like this, it was very challenging. I went through the script and found out I had to build my breath for three minutes in one scene. I would hold my breath and swim through the rough water and I would probably have to do it 20 times. But when it comes to filming, the pain and discomfort was only a test thing, because it made it easier for the characters to carry real. You are in the moment and you're not faking it, you really need to act it. It's not just filming to think about. The swimming scenes were tough but that made the scenes where we were wet and cold really easy, a great relief.

Is it true that you would not swim before taking this role?

I would actually swim. I just don't like the water much. I do not like taking a bath. As a kid growing up in Iowa, I learned to swim, but it was not real swimming. I could get in the water and just shoot under it to the other side of the pool. I was laughing through the tests, there's very different from crossing the pool in eight strong, smooth strokes. Swimming the way I learned how to do it is about being efficient with your oxygen and swimming in comfortable times to Olympic swimmers. That's the level I had to achieve.

How much training did you do?

I trained for eight months, before we even started filming. I couldn't just be lazy and I had to look like I was the best of the group. I made sure I could do everything the Coast Guard swimmers have to do to get through the program. When I realized I would be working with Olympic swimmers, I had to step it up. You can't do that to me, I'm a natural swimming every morning to a lap pool and swam from one end of the pool to the other and then back. It took me forever and I was exhausted. I had to build up my speed every day. Then I started swimming in the ocean, which was a completely different thing. I was throwing up constantly and I would keep going. It was physically exhausting. I kept on going. Then I had to go through boot camp with the other actors who were in the film.

What was the boot camp like?

It was really tough. I had to ask those fitness instructors if I was working with, to go slow, to take a quick off (look upset). A couple of times I said 'Guys I'm supposed to win this race.' But they helped me a lot and showed me how to swim better. I have never been called in so much in my life, except perhaps by my parents. We often had to do 50 push-ups. And the Coast Guard guys were using the training program and them with us, so I have great respect for them.

Had you done anything approaching this kind of training before?

The hand physical work reminded me of when I was growing up. I was doing the hard core labor roles jobs I did before becoming an actor waking up every morning with a sore back. My father have much money growing up and I did a lot of labor intensive work—I was a mason, I baked hay for a while, I was a roofer, I cleaned out chicken coops. I pretty much did it all. I've been in every kind of job in a kitchen. In those jobs, where you are up your butt all day long, you're a mule and you are using your physical attributes to earn your money. You wake up the next morning after using a lot of muscles and you're really sore and your back hurt. The training and the swimming when we were filming really took me back to those days of manual labor.

What diet did you use during training?

I had every specific diet. I had to have a lot of supplements and protein shakes. I was trying to stock that I had to consume extensive amounts of carbohydrates just to keep my weight up.

How tough was the actual filming?

The filming was very hard, it was so cold and difficult. It is hard to describe how cold you get. When you are in water 28 hours a day, your body temperature slowly starts to drop. Afterwards, when we got out of the water we would be shivering, you do everything you can just to get warm again, to get your core temperature up. They put you in a hot room and cover you with blankets.

Would you be able to reverse someone after all your training?

I wouldn't want someone's life if I could save it. I can't imagine in pictures, I would try my best to help, I would do everything I could to rescue someone, there's no question about that. But would I want to do it for a job every day? No. Those guys go out and risk their lives and I don't know how they do it.

Did you have an interpretation for the film in terms of other action stars?

No, I am not particularly cool and I secured Ashton's knees like cool, so I studied those Mr. Queens for this role. He is still the coolest and there is no one better at what he did. So I watched his films and read a load of books about him. I wanted to discover how he worked and how he thought, and I wanted to learn how to be cool.

What is your approach in acting at this point?

I want somewhere that it is not what you achieve in life, it is what you overcome. I think that is true. There is a value in having obstacles put in your way. There is something exciting for the next rung on the ladder and any desire to do my best and make sure each role is the best work I have ever done. My hope from each experience and feel to accomplish."

"The Guardian," distributed by Buena Vista International through Columbia Pictures, opens on Oct. 13. In theaters nationwide.

'My desire is to do my best and make sure each role is the best work I have ever done'

MYGLOBE

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Lifestyles

Live Better, Every Day.

Bazaar buzz

READY, GET SET, SHOP!

Bazaar 7 will held its first bazaar this year on Oct. 8, Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. This much-awaited bazaar will feature many young entrepreneurs and unique items from all over the world.

Get ready to eat, shop and splurge.

And if one day isn't enough for you, Bazaar 7's second bazaar will be on Dec. 3 to 4, 9 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

The race is on

TEN TEAMS WERE CHOSEN FROM MORE than 2,000 applicants. Andrew and Jenna, Edwin and Joe Jo, Jacquelin and Aubrey, Ryan and Jenni, Liam and Andy, Mandy and Marvin, Pia Isaac and Sally, Sabrina and Hendrick, Francisco and Jacob and Melody and Shaw-ee-ann will collect funds for the respective charities they will be representing for!

Find out on the "G" Thursday, 9 p.m., when The Amazing Race Asia begins exclusively on ANC.

Spinning with the stars

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuezzo-Dorio

AMIDST A BLINDING STREAM OF strobe lights, Embassy becomes the breeding ground for a new batch of superstar DJs. Using the new iTunes-capable Moto ROKR handset, celebrity spinners are set to get their hands dirty in the coming weeks for the iDJ2 Party Series. Watch them wreak up the volume and sling it out in a fun and friendly competition.

Following the "Manila Mixology" night (where DJ Colossus of Mustard took home the top prize, defeating fellow media members such as Super! 's own Yuki Ito-ue), a select roster of models, TV personalities, and party scene freshmen will hold court this Super Saturday decks. For 20 minutes, each will get a chance to show off eclectic musical styles in the hope of becoming the night's big winner.

Tonight at 12 p.m., popular "Pinoy Gen" participants such as Manilla Pinay, Jason Dy and Michelle Pantoja will [illegible] with their hand-picked playlists. Next Saturday, Oct. 14, six "Fashion Mix-Masters" featuring the style-savvy line-up of Rene Dragon, Bubbles Paredes, Charmaine Macinas, and Nicolette Taruc. The iDJ2 series's culmination on Oct. 21 with "Celebrity Spin," where you can catch the likes of Dhenomelo Sarmenta, Paolo Paraiso, Sam Oh, and Stacey Tan slug it out for the coveted crown.

So get ready to reach for the sky and be on the television explosion, and don't forget to post favorite celebrity iDJ? Pre-emails, visit www.eventsupersaturday.com.

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Oct. 8, Sunday

German Film Festival at Shang Cineplex; Peliculas Spanish Film Festival at Greenbelt 2 Cinemas; Newsh Indian Film Festival at Quezon; Avril, Antonio Chandon Zingers at Union Church, Makati; RSVP: The Next is The Proposal at Dinilaga Greenbelt 1; The Resident Caffeine Festival at Chateau 177; Lomot over Photo Exhibit at Watch Bong Gallery, Salvacion; Jazz Sunday Brunch at M Cafe; Trumpet's Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4

Oct. 9, Monday

Pandayan ni Edgar at The Bistro; Gold Oka 0207 w/ DJs Red J & Brandon Unadi at Abcraft; Enchanted Evenings w/ Dominoes at Rockwell Lounge; Monday Live Music Night w/ DJ BO at Goethes Makati; Diwali Indian Food Festival at Quezon; Emotional Lust, Vin at Captain's Bar; Follies de Monti at Dichotheque; Jills & Heat at Mode's

Oct. 10, Tuesday

I-ON NIGHT: Showcase Indies Series at The Loft Glockwell; Schwarma Jilion Sanctuary & Children at The Bistro; Stand Up Comedy at Coffee Bean Pinoy Comedy Jamboree; Cuisine Royale w/ Mantis at Embassy Cuisine; Lets Crack & Scratch U, at Temple; Jess & the City Ladies Night at Abaseri; Piano Nights w/ Tito Baran at Kondesa Lounge Indies; Sparkle w/ DJs Butch & Irwin Salvador at Abcraft; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Diwali: Indian Food Festival at Quezon; Cuisinea at Café Havana Greenbelt

Oct. 11, Wednesday

Out of Body Special & Jeyla at Underground, Ilonga at Metro Bar Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Super Massive at Brunch's, Blue w/ DP Reyes at Temple; The Bloodthirsty at Eastwood Fiesta Circle; Ez Can Dominoes at Greenbelt; DJs Rudboy, Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Cuisinea at Antonio Linden Suites; Swatch w/ Dr Steve Mills at Abaseri; Sexy High w/ DJ Joy at Vida Malate; Discotech at Mosaic; Johnny & Kokoy at 70s Bistro; Underchild at Manila DJ Club; Heroes Thursday at Rockwell VIP Room; Wild Wednesdays at Mint; Eurobar Bistro; CD Bill at Greenbelt; Disc Night at Mag-ari Café

Oct. 12, Thursday

Rockwobbly & Join The Club at Underground; Cuisinea at 70s Bistro; Jam Session w/ Johnny Alegre Affinity at Eastwood City Walk 2; Stand Up Comedy at Coffee Bean Orbit of Asia branch; Crisp w/ DJ Shinder Dixie at Fusions; Rockbottle Thursdays w/ Soundgood at Stone; Pinoy Whatever Thursdays at Bistro's; IPPT at Mag-ari Café

Ladies Night w/ DJ RudBoy Jeff at Temple; Open Mic Night w/ Ellen Dumas at Kondesa Lindor Suites; G Lounge at Metro; Thirsty Thirsty days at Bed; Silk at Metro Bar

Oct. 13, Friday

Hoover Emotions w/ DJs Mare Antol, Randy Balquinlot & Jakey Polo at Fusions; Dirty Seconds, Makatchi & Lala at Underground; Sin Sinners at Captain's Bar; Higher Sensations at Acacia Cuisinea; Sweetlove w/ Boser Almazan at 70s; Sunshine w/ Dr Patch & Miss Mustasha at Mosaic; Sensual Night w/ Super Wagner at Joyce Lindo Suites; Fat Friday at Metro; DJ Shinder at Embassy Club; Homebrew at Mint; Mr. HOUSE at M Cafe; Soul Shine w/ DJ Shinder Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Happy Sunny w/ DJ Bix at Entertainment; Jess Perkins w/ DJs Daniel & McCrash at Temple; The Jocks at Sin Bistro; Cogic Friday at Red; Sweet 70's at Merlo's; DJs Incantations & Bliss at Prince of Jolpar; Intensity 8 w/ Francesco at Metro Bar

SATURDAY Special

Edna Nuevas G. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

TIMBERLAKE: 'It takes in his overhopper mantle for sensitive heartbreak credentials'

Groove over thematic gravity in Timberlake's latest album

By Rito P. Asilo

IN "FUTURESEX/LOVESOUND," JUSTIN Timberlake's Billboard chart-topping follow-up to his 2002 debut solo album ("Justified"), the singer trades in his sweetpopper mantle for sensitive heartbreak credentials.

But, while the effort is sure to jack up record sales, the singer's artistic ambition is nevertheless overwhelmed by hook-heavy singles that boast more of swirling retro-funk energy than thematic gravity.

In the first three tracks alone..."Future Sex/ LoveSound," "Sexy Ladies/ Let Me Talk to You," and the current No.1 single, "SexyBack"—the former boy band vocalist dishes sexual innuendoes as if unstatic reminders would lend him maturity and credibility in the eyes of critics who refuse to take him seriously. Alas, he accomplishes the opposite. You'd think his lines were inevitable sexual concerns.

Cathartic

He tries to please in the anthemic "Losing My Play"...a well intentioned but too literal send-up of Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror"...a cautionary tale and a desperate man's plea for help ("Can anybody hear me?/ Cos I can't seem to hear myself.../ "Time's gon to be a heaven on there/ to save me from this hell"). The song features the singer's technically facilities (here issues synonymed further by sounding sentiments) that crescendo into a cathartic, choral plea.

Don't get us wrong, you'll have fun listening to the album. Timberlake's well-produced 12-track recording has the perfect beat sidestep up some 8-bitty, groove-heavy album lyrically sparse numbers that will no doubt find their way into the pop charts. The graphic suggestiveness of the salacious "Sexyback" ("I'll let you ride me if I smother/ how.../ You're burning up for me and that's a fact") is lost to the track's convincing beats, thank goodness.

Irresistible

If you want another serving of the "Off The Wall"-like charms of "Suck Your Body" or "Selestia," you'll find it here in tracks like "Love Stoned/ I Think I Like You." If you find the hip-hop, R&B groove-of "Like I Love You" irresistible, "Lucas Girl" will serve you equally well.

Timberlake knows how to fine-tuned hooks into listening to his acutely dynamic, albeit thematically scant songs. Here, more than ever, his songs feel like they're engineered for pop-chart success.

And his artistry is compromised by his obvious musical influences. "Damn Girl" sounds like a rehelished, techno version of a Prince ditty, and his Michael Jackson-like dance licks and vocal affectations are likewise all over the place (compiling bits of Macho Jackets "Gonna Be Starting Something" are evident in the ever-changing tempo of "Love Stoned").

Power ballad

Like an afterthought, he pieces his shows R&B tunes and adult-contemporary numbers (the make-out romantic song, "Summer Love/ Set the Mood, "Until the End of Time") to the final third of the work listing. The last tune, "(Another Song) All Over Again," a well-sung number about love and longing, reveals the album's requisite power ballad.

Justin's voice may not have the power and vocal brilliance of his fellow colleague in 'NSync, JC Chasez, but he more than makes up for it in technique and charisma. Problem is, he just doesn't have an distinctive a voice as, say, Lou Ryan or Robbie Williams. So, what draws his diehard an interest?

JUSTIN'S latest album is a well-produced 12-track recording.

20 after-Edsa shorts ignite 'Imahe Nasyon'

By Rica Arevalo

IN "IMAHE NASYON," THE CONCEPT IS simple. Gather 20 filmmakers to craft works in five-minute shots about the Filipino's struggle for freedom and democracy 20 years after the Edsa revolution.

The endeavor produces mixed results. But, flecked with talent and personal statements of young, innovative filmmakers make all of them winners in our book.

Surprisingly on this particular platform, Carlyle shows he can make a short film. Yes, his "Nang Mamayan ang Diyos" is a predictable, quiet film. Brief revelations, but avoiding the director's trademark style of using out-of-time and sometimes nonsensical scenes in the longest five minutes ever.

Teaser

Raymond Red comes up with "Silandang Kamera Obskura," the teaser of his upcoming feature-length comedy-romance. And tells the story of a jobless (Dax Medina) behind inside a cell and how he prevails as a jobless prisoner (Ping Medina) from a hole.

The most striking work is Neil Dayo's "Binabaing Langit." The filmmaker shows "The whole essence of the independent spirit in a much-done film in the Manila Metro" project." Dayo's short film reminds me of an early work of filmmaker Cesar Buenco. The quiet, hand-held style shows

JANICE Jurado, Soliman Cruz and Ping Medina in Paolo Villaluna's "One Shot."

scant of Public Schools' lived peoples, in collaboration with the Dost Evangelista Mission Foundation Inc., where Dalagan is a board member.

Educational program

Dead, Inc. also sponsors a dual and intra-educational program in Central, Laguna, from elementary to high school and college levels. It trains public school teachers to teach through other languages.

For her part, Gaida B. Lacanaria, San Isidro's mayor, is a two-time Most Outstanding Mayor Awardee of the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija.

And Executive Dead Bureau Sponsors Ordinances furnishing D. Health, Advisers and Search.

Unsung heroes

LEO T. GUIRNOO is a retired accountant who worked for many years at the Housing authority of Jersey City, USA. With his wife Cecilia, the alternative of Orion, Nueva Ecija, then moved to New Jersey in 2001.

Upon coming home to San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, they bought a 10-hectare farm land in 1,000 sheet and established a fishpond, at the corners of Barangays and E Cuenco sts. The house is now used for senior citizens' activities and prayer meetings.

Guirnoo and his wife reside in Bilumen and visit San Isidro monthly. With their son and some friends' money, they donated 12 high school students and 25 pupils at the elementary grades.

These students are deaf and mute, but are integrated in the San Isidro Central School through the Department of Public Schools' Dead program, in collaboration with the Dead Evangelista Mission Foundation Inc., where Dalagan is a board member.

STREET SMART

Manuel Aurrecoechea

GUIRNOOS (center) with Lorenzo Gerbi (and Ebeng)

San Isidro is a model town ruled by local governments representatives from Lucena, Tayabas and Mindanao, and Mayor Lorenzo wants to other regions to find about how to implement good governance in terms of health, education, housing and agriculture.

E-mail: manuelaurrecoechea@yahoo.com, or call 896-7206.

Computer virus wreaks havoc in real world

NOW SHOWING

By Rina P. Jimlo

"Pulse"

D: Jim Sonzero
S: Kristen Bell, Jon Sonzero-Seidler, Christopher Gillespie

THIS WEEK'S REMAKE of an Asian mainstream classic, Jim Sonzero's Hollywood take on Oryoki Kurosawa's song, tiffanie dark technophobic horror drama—about supernatural young adults haunted by the unexpected suicide of one of their friends—taps into many contemporary paranoias over everything that connects the inside to the outside, and into the dependence on modern technology.

When a mysterious computer virus crosses over from the alternate reality of the world wide web to the real world, it takes shape in ghoulish creatures ready to wreak havoc on the streets of psychology major, Mattie (Kristen Bell) and web-savvy Dexter (the promising Jon Gosselin-don't—and mention!)

BELL. Plays psychology major in Sonzero's chiller.

Despite the movie's talented actors and its relevance, cautionary theme, Sonzero's creature is weighed down by over-cut scripting gimmicks—and a disturbing love hole—that aim to please most then-string a new perspective to a predictable premise. The film has its shocks, but as they say: It's not those, don't do it.

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	4	TALLADEGA NIGHTS	5	STEP-UP	6	THE DEPARTED	7	PULSE
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	3	PRIDE AND GLORY	4	TURISTA	5	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION		
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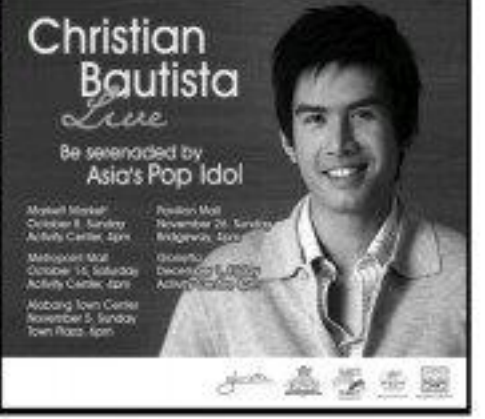

200th honorary degree for Dr. Daisaku Ikeda

DR. DAISAKU IKEDA, PRESIDENT OF Soka Gakkai International, has been conferred by Beijing Normal university to an honorary professorship—his 200th honorary degree.

Ikeda has contributed to peace building through education and cultural exchange between countries around the globe.

In the Philippines, Dr. Ikeda has established educational exchange programs between Soka University in Tokyo, which he founded, and the University of the Philippines, De La Salle University and Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro.

Mr. Ikeda has also conducted peace dialogues with former presidents Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph E. Estrada.

IKEDA. Lauded for his contributions to peace, education and cultural exchange.

Cultural exchange

Ikeda has been honored by the Cultural Center of the Philippines for his contribution to cultural exchanges between the Philippines and Japan. He was presented the CCP's Jose Lacaba Award in 1995.

In the field of education, Ikeda has been conferred doctorate degrees by the University of the Philippines "Honoris Causa Legis" in 1991, University of the City of Manila "Doctor of Humanities" in 1994, De La Salle University "Doctorate of Humanities Letters" in 1997, Angeles University "Doctor of Humanities" in 2001, University of the Southern Philippines "Doctor of Humanities" in 2001, Gregorio Araneta University "Doctor of Humanities" in 2002, Capitol University "Doctor of Humanities" in 2004, Batangas State University "Doctor of Pedagogy" in 2003 and Batangas Agricultural College "Doctor of Humanities" in 2006.

Other awards

Other awards in Education: Cagayan Capitol College "Total Person" Award; Philippine Banana Growers Memorial College "Golden Peace Award"; Angeles University of the Philippines "University Medal of Honor"; University of Southern Philippines "Rizal Peace Award."

'Happy Tales'

Twelve anime stories created by Ikeda's future have been released into Tagalog and aired on GMA-7 as "Happy Tales." They have received high grades from viewers nationwide, and also the Asahi TV Seal and the 2004 Asahi TV Broadcasters' Award.

These anime tales have been compiled in DVD format and shown in various schools in Manila and Cagayan De Oro, receiving favorable reviews from students, parents and teachers.

Bullock headlines new 'Capote' film

"UNFORGIVEN" IS FAST BECOMING famous for being one of the unlucky-est films in years. By coincidence, the biopic about Truman Capote and his writer chums, "In Cold Blood," covers identical ground in the year's second fab. "Capote," which got Philip Seymour Hoffman an Oscar for playing the title role.

But Sandra Bullock, who portrays "To Kill A Mockingbird" author Nelle Harper Lee, in the new movie, said the beloved three-way stars of the book films "if the film is good, who cares? Does it make? Couldn't it the standard 'Capote.' The reception, we're getting shows that there's always room for good films.'," she told Reuters in an interview.

Different perspectives

The 42-year-old star praised "Infamous" studio Warner Independent Pictures for sticking it out with the project. "The beauty of it is, we have two films that are very well-written, and, we made two different perspectives about the same subject matter—and studios chose to make them both! Warner could have pulled the plug and said: 'No, one movie's already being made! So, we need to applaud that!"

Bullock, best known for comic roles like "Miss Congeniality" and the action blockbuster "Speed," was pleased to play another serious role in "Infamous," which focuses on the both of the Oscar-winning racial themes, "Crash." "Comedy is hard to do. You have to take a break from it, because things mean so be funny," she explained. "It'll always do comedy—I love it. But, you have to go after the good roles when they're there."

Reuters

Unique art exhibit by Guhit visual artists

GUHIT ARTISTS. (From left, front) Angelo Ballesteros, Felipe Maruya, Tito Sanchez (back) Jovan Ignacio, Madie Antiquerio, Araceli Limcaco-Dans, Janice Lukan Young and Aizo Pascagnin.

GUHIT, A GROUP OF eight mixed visual artists, has been working quietly together for the past four years, to improve their craftsmanship and creativity.

Due to popular demand from art lovers and collectors to give identity to their group, the title, "Guhit" was unanimously chosen by all for their forthcoming art exhibit.

The eight noted artists are Madie Antiquerio, Angelo Ballesteros, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Jovan Ignacio, Aizo Pascagnin, Felipe Maruya, Janice Lucson Young and Tito Sanchez.

Interaction

The concerted efforts of the Guhit artists to grow artistically will be displayed in their forthcoming art exhibit called "Sigwa ng Inisip."

A unique feature of this exhibit is the Guhit artists' painting interaction on eight canvases expressing their reminiscence and delight at the hundreds of newly hatched baby pawikan (sea turtles) they set free into the sea during their outing at the Manunggul Beach Club in Batulao early this year.

The painting interaction of the Guhit group, according to Araceli Dans, is a campaign to save the pawikan in the Philippines "It is a wake up call to all Filipinos that We're selling the turtles and their eggs. Say 'No' to dynamite and cyanide fishing. Say 'No' to oil spills from commercial sea vehicles, or any perilous elements that will destroy our coral and seas.

Pristine beauty

"If we love our country, we must save and maintain the pristine beauty and richness of our Philippine waters and seashores. This is the most valuable God-given inheritance we can give to our children and grandchildren!"

The "Sigwa ng Isining" exhibit will open on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 6 in the evening, at the Art Center and Gallerie "I" at level 4, Building A, of SM Megamall. It will run until Nov. 7. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call Galerie 'I' at 634-3706.

DAWN with "Mga Sibuyas ng Umaga," her latest tribute to the pawikan.

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"One of the few films that stirs the soul of those who still treasure the power of movies."
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SATURDAY Special

DICAPRIO: From dreamy romantic lead in "Titanic" to conflicted antihero in "The Departed."

Scorsese brings out the best and toughest in Leonardo DiCaprio

By Nestor U. Torre

LEONARDO DICAPRIO made his mark in the movies as a young actor especially adept at playing sensitive and troubled characters. And, in the mega-hit, "Titanic," he established himself as the dreamy young-adult male romantic lead to beat.

Despite his considerable theatre achievements, however, DiCaprio was generally deemed by industry insiders as too softly sensitive to play tough, gritty characters in action-thrillers.

Transition

So what to make the transition in "Gangs of New York," but the comely movie diva Cameron Diaz, Happily, 2006 has turned out to be a threshold year for DiCaprio, because he's finally come up with a powerfully gritty and edgy performance in Martin Scorsese's latest in-your-face cops-and-criminals drama, "The Departed."

Then Scorsese to bring out the best and toughest in DiCaprio. In the compelling action-drama, the actor portrays Billy Costigan, a state trooper who becomes a mole in the gang of local mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson).

The assignment is so dangerous that the mole Diaz is really edgy from day to day. The highly-stressed character he's tasked to portray has forced DiCaprio to go beyond his own stress and dreamy image of old, and character darker, deeper aspects to his thespic psyche.

The difficult assignment offers rich rewards for both DiCaprio and the film's viewers, who are expertly drawn by Scorsese into the brutal, feral underworld of high-stakes crime, where death lurks around every corner.

Natural choice

With his eminently effective transformation in "The Departed," DiCaprio has revved up his film career in a major way, and made himself a natural choice of other filmmakers for more challenging and complex roles to come. Even better, he could finish at least an Oscar nomination for his tough yet insightful portrayal in Scorsese's latest masterwork.

But of all, "The Departed" also turns out to be a triumph for Scorsese, Nicholson and Matt Damon, who plays Costigan's counter-dopplegangster, Billy Sullivan—who is controlled to turn inside for the police unit that's been put up to bring him down!

The fact that both DiCaprio and Damon's characters are named Billy is no accident, since they're very similar in such roles, except for the fact that they're on opposite, combative sides of the law.

On their toes

Nicholson is malevolently compelling as Costello, and his lieutenant-like portrayal keeps his younger stellar counterparts on their toes throughout the film.

Martin Sheen also turns in an exceptional performance as Costigan's superior. But the most salutatory plaudits go to filmmaker Scorsese for his excellent handling of his film's complex, tragic tale.

With unflinching realism, he shows how his crime story's "good" and "bad" characters' paths continually bisect and intersect. He also makes expert use of still pictures and other cinema of vocation technology to keep his storytelling edgily taut.

Scorsese may already be in his 60s, but "The Departed" shows that he's at the peak of his powers. And Leo DiCaprio benefits most from his master's mentorship!

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8 ZOOM
9 STEP UP
10 TWILIGHT DANCERS

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3 FLY BOYS
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4 FIRST DAY HIGH
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6 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
7 PULSE

METRO EAST

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE DEPARTED
4 FLY BOYS
5 STEP UP
6 ZOOM
7 PULSE
8 THE BREED

NOVALICHES

1 THE DEPARTED
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 PULSE
4 FLY BOYS

CITYSQUARE MALABON / PIONEER

1 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 THE DEPARTED
2 PULSE
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 FLY BOYS

STA. ROSA / LIPA

1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 FLY BOYS
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

DASMARINAS / ANGELES

1 ZOOM
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE DEPARTED

IMUS / STARMILLS

1 THE DEPARTED
2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
1 POSSESSED BY EVIL
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 THE DEPARTED

BACOLOD / ILOILO

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 CRANK
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 ZOOM
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 SCOOP

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Sterling performance from Nora Aunor

By Ronald C. Mangubat

AUNOR. Her acting prowess shines—and soars.

AFTER YEARS IN THE STATES, Superstar Nora Aunor, who is sorely missed by her fans, returns to the screen via a digital film, "Inggrata," and comes up with another sterling performance. The movie is directed by Joey Gosiengfiao from a script by Bernardo Bernardo, another actor and director based in the US.

In "Inggrata," Aunor portrays Bea, one of the struggling Pinoys in Los Angeles (or "Lost Angeles," as she tells her gay brother, Bernie, portrayed by Bernardo). After many years of living abroad, she is still having to make ends meet.

She lives in a mobile house and holds various jobs—as a convenience store crew in a gasoline station and as a waitress in a Filipino restaurant.

Teenage daughter

She has a teenage daughter born a previous relationship and lives with Nick (John Rendez), an irresponsible bum, who has just gotten out of prison after serving a sentence for threatening and assaulting a black man and carrying a deadly weapon.

Bea is smart, good-natured and highly skilled, but accordingly to her daughter, sister and friends, she's the stupid head that ever existed for trouble to achieve more and to progress in life.

In fact, it is soon Bea who supports her overweight, alcoholic and internet-addict bum—she even does the household chores for him, all in the name of love.

Her dearly sachetmade her many complex, but still finds herself stuck in a rut. It is only when her older brother Bernie visits and speaks in her about that she slowly learns to get a grip on her life and eventually empower herself.

Family ties

"Inggrata" imparts a lesson or two about self-empowerment and the importance of close family ties in a foreign land, where relationships are precarious and all, worthless fleeting.

But it fails to dramatize its storyline in an engaging and lively way, resulting in a movie that is more boring than entertaining.

Nora Aunor's acting prowess shines—and soars.

Her cast, the supporting cast can't keep up with Aunor and Bernardo's sharp and hilarious performances. And one can't completely loathe Rendez's character, because he merely reacts to lines.

The same goes for the film's musical aspects. The score is bad, the editing choppy in one scene, the camera even catches the shadow of the boom mike's pole!

Halfway through the film, we keep wondering who the "Inggrata" is, because Aunor's character is definitely not an Ingrate.

It is only in the final scene that Bernardo characteristically screams, "...sa kabila pala ng lahat, hindi siya ingrata!" ... Hihi?!

Thin plot

With the film's small scope and thin plot, we feel that "Inggrata" should have been produced for television rather than for the big screen.

But if there's one thing that pleases us, it's the thought that it's really hard to put a great screen down. Because, even in a lackluster film, Nora Aunor's acting prowess will shines—and soars!

"THE BANQUET." Visually splendid film set in ancient China during a period of immoral turmoil and universal threat.

A tale of two 'Banquets'

By Nestor Torre

LAST OCT. 3, THE MANDARIN ORIental Manila, UBS Philippines and Creative Products Inc., came up with unique new events—the press conference for the new Hei Zhong cinema, "The Banquet," and the launch of the hotel's Tin Yiao Chinese restaurant's Banquets.

The combination of cinematic and gastronomy banquets turned out to be a feast for both the eye and the palate, and the media people at the twin launches saw everything to the occasion, extending both the special food Chef Tin Yiao had prepared for them, and the movie's visually splendid trailers.

Those trailers showed viewers that "The Banquet" is set in ancient China during a period of historical turmoil and universal threat. And locales are the young Empress Wan (Liu Zhang).

Forbidden desire

She is as regal a fighter as she is beautiful, but something is lacking in her life. Unfulfilled in her royal bed is the fearless forbidden desire for her stepson, Prince Wei (Huang Xiaoming), an introverted young man in the Hamlet mold.

When the Emperor suddenly dies and his younger brother Li (Ge You) takes over the throne, Wan trades everyone by agreeing to marry Li, convinced that this is the only way to protect Wei Liang, while making her own position in the court.

But Li is no fool, and only pretends to buy into her scheme, while secretly dispatching his guards to kill his nephew.

The already despondent prince is pushed to the end of his rope when he realizes that his own life is being threatened. After wrestling off an assassination attempt, he vows to kill his uncle, whom he now believes has murdered his father (shades of Hamlet—again!). Meanwhile, Empress Wan and the Grand Marshall also have their own plans to put in lethal play.

Aside from the humorous presence of Zhi Zhang, Cui Zhi's fusion of the direction of Feng Xiaogang, Che action-choreography of Yuen Wo-Ping (the "Matrix" films), and designer Tim Yip's ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon").

Phenomenal gross

No wonder, the film is currently taking China theaters by storm, with a phenomenal US$13 million gross, and counting. It should do similarly well when it opens overseas, in Manila on Oct. 18.

DIAMOND. Luminous presence.

On the gastronomy side, Tin Yiao pioneered a delectable sampling of its new à la carte and set menus this month, offering a variety of classics—basic Chinese roasting, dried seafood varieties and abalone, live and fresh seafood, meat, poultry, noodles and rice, to vegetarian dishes.

Executive Chinese chef Hans Yuen Chun and restaurant manager Dennis Lee have conceptualized new dishes like roasted pipa prawns Cantonese-style. Braised eight treasures "Tin Yiao Banquet." The Han dynasty also have the privilege of changing some of the dishes in the set menus in gourmet dishes at special prices. Call 750-8888, extension 2421 to 2426.

Celebrities use stardom for advocacy

AFRICA HAS LONG BEEN A FAVORITE destination for celebrity campaigners, going back 30 years.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) began the recruitment of "goodwill ambassadors" in the early 1950s with actor Danny Kaye and, then, actress Audrey Hepburn, followed by British actor Peter Ustinov and singer-actor Harry Belafonte.

Hollywood gloss

U2's Bono and fellow Irish rocker Bob Geldof, with his Live Aid concerts are now the most memorable, but recently, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie brought Hollywood gloss to the assistance.

Here are details of other celebrities involved in Africa charities and causes:

• Oprah Winfrey. Oprah has selected 73 girls for the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa. The academy, which will open in January, has been sanctioned by South Africa's education authorities who evaluated the site near Johannesburg. The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation established $40 million.

• Matt Damon. Matt Damon recently visited Zambia as a guest of the Africa advocacy group Info AIDS Trade Africa (Data) and ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History. Matt saw the symptoms of—and solutions to—extreme poverty and global disease.

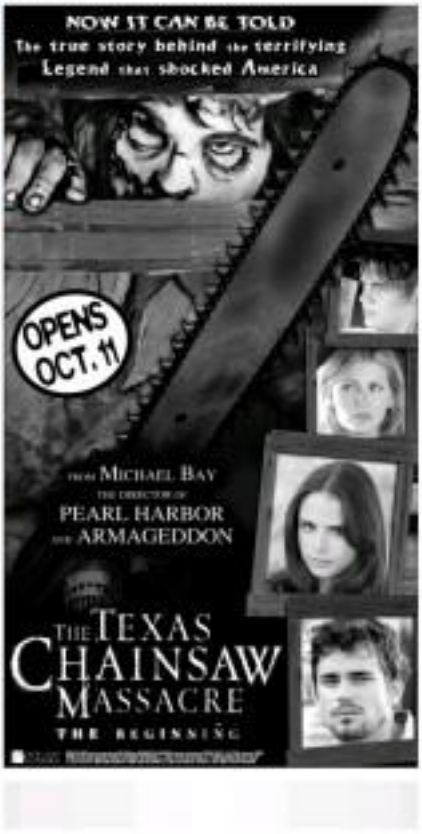
Refugees

• George Clooney. Clooney visited the Darfur region of Sudan last April to raise awareness of the plight of refugees in the war-torn region.

• Ida Zawawa. Bawasa visited Darfur in June, his second trip to the region.

• Alyssa Milano. Milano accompanied rock-star Angela and said Africa is one way celebrities can transform an unprecedented level of scrutiny into their lives can something productive.

• Madonna. Madonna's charity plans were announced in an interview with Time magazine. She has promised to raise $3 million to fund projects that would help orphans. Reuters



Tours, Leisure & Chow

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Dine and fly to Hong Kong

MARCO POLO Davao gives you a grander treat as it celebrates its Hong Kong Food Festival.

Get a chance to win two (2) Cebu Pacific roundtrip tickets to Hong Kong plus room accommodations at one of the Shares Po. lo hotels in Hong Kong for a minimum food purchase of P2,000 at the Lemon Court. Room accommodations at Shares Polo Plaza Cebu and Shares Polo Davao will also be given away.

Dine, fly in style and get a true Hong Kong experience. Promo is extended up to Dec. 31. Dine inquiries and reservations, please text: 0922 220-0888 local 7222 or 7223.

Benkay - A haven for food lovers

DOUBLE CAST GO SNOOZE AT Benkay's popular Japanese Weekend Buffet! Be a sure of its scrumptious emerging bowl of great Japanese dishes.

The Japanese 'Weekend Buffet' has become a weekend ritual for gourmands to come and visit Benkay to sample its wide array of choices from the freshest sushi and salads to appetizing dishes of gindara and salmon, tempura, shabu-shabu, selection of udon and Japanese sweets for only P995++ per person. Families are also attracted with the 50 percent discount on the buffet rate for children dining ages 4 to 10 years old. "With our weekend buffet, we offer food lovers value for money as they enjoy some of our authentic Japanese dishes," said Benkay's head chef Yoshida Tomiyuki.

Benkay is located at the lobby level of Dusit Hotel Nikko. The Japanese Weekend Buffet is available every Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For inquiries, please call the restaurant manager at 867-3333 extension 3243. Advance dining reservations advised.

COME CELEBRATE THE BEER AND WINE Festival at Café Astoria and experience a night of fun.

Gulp the night away with your favorite draft beer for only P299++ per person from 6 to 8 p.m.

Super-grilled Pulcinia Binhalen Boneless of marinated grilled seafood and your favorite inflatin for 4 to 5 persons are available for only P700++ and P1,200++ for five to 10 persons.

Top off your evening with this! Choose platters selection coupled with the local and imported wines for only P550++ per person. Available at Café Astoria from Oct. 1 to 31.

Astoria Plaza is ideally located at # 15 J. Escriva Drive (formerly Ayala Ave.), Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries, you can call 687-1111 L-mail: salesastoriaplaza.com, website: www.astoriaplaza.com.

Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

Follow that bean!

THERE ARE MANY COFFEE blends enjoyed all over the world, but the basic beans are Arabica and Robusta. Arabica is grown in the mountain side of the planet, mostly in high altitudes of 900-2,000 meters. Its long flat beans are fresh green in color, producing a particularly full aroma. On the other hand, Robusta is found in the lowest part of the earth. With beans that are coarse and round, it is almost brown in color. With these beans as a platform, different coffee producing countries developed their own distinct blends.

Coffee lovers who enjoy a lasting of chocolate flavor in their brew can't get enough of their mocha. Now, Mocha Coffee has defined the finest coffee beans ways: in "an old-fashioned enthusiasm for coffee, a common name for coffee from Yemen, and the name of a drink made up of coffee and hot chocolate in equal parts."

Asian coffees are also some of the most sought after, especially those grown by the Dutch from Arabica trees in Java, Indonesia.

While the rare discuss almonds killed that industry end for this made a comeback and the revived coffee plantations now produce a good Java fashion named Djampit.

Coffee lovers can sample a kaleidoscope of these flavors of the best at the Book and Bean Show on Oct. 13 to 15, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Megatrade Hall 3, Building B, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Exhibiting are coffee products and sharing information about franchising opportunities are coffee luminaries that include Crumps Specialist Inc, Equilibrium Intertrade Corp, Gourmet Farms Inc, HAB Equipment Corp, Mocha Blends Corp, Overlan Philippines Corp, Philippine Food Service Equipment and Supplies Corp (PHILCOMP), The Coffee Brewery and The Coffee Experiment.

The Book and Bean Show also presents a venue for book exhibitors to celebrities in the publishing industry showcase their latest titles.

The Book and Bean Show is sponsored by Philippine Graphic Publications (now part of Inq7 Portfolio at 924-3, 987-107 and 1203 E. Lbs. for more information about the Book and Bean Show, contact Daisy Santos at 896-0662.

People, Events & Products

Marriage Encounter in Tagaytay

THE GALILEE DIOCESAN COMMUNITY WILL HOLD A Marriage Encounter Weekend Seminar at the St. Joseph Church, Talisay, Tagaytay City on Oct. 27 to 29. The Marriage Encounter is designed to revive marriages by offering the chance for spouses to rediscover each other. The program has also been proven helpful in healing marriages on the verge of collapse. Couples are struggling to stay together. For inquiries, please contact Cris at 0905-4151-420, Conrad at 0917-6220081, Lorena at 0920-5140 or Studie at 0916-7985879. All calls will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Fr. Carrie Legaspi leads Asian tour group

REV. FR. CARRIE LEGASPI, THE RECTOR-RELIGIOUS PRIEST, IS LEADING a group tour to several Asian shrines notably Singapore, Malaysia, Macau, Hongkong and Penang. This nine-day tour from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3, is intended for those who desire to go additional to Kuala Lumpur, Genting resort and conduct healing sessions in hotels for lack of churches in these places. For more details and information, please contact Sister at 0917-411-8454.

The Body and Mind Wellness Series

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SEMINAR IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND BEING and includes a sense of wellness through various healing and meditation techniques which can benefit acute, chronic and incurable conditions. Experience a special gateway to body and mind wellness as a unique stage of healing training, meditation and services will be offered in Manila. The sessions will be conducted by founder and master healer Datuan Pandilar at the Executive Lounge of the Bamboo Village Association from Oct. 3 to 10. The service is composed of workshops, guided meditations and sessions that will focus on body healing and mind evolution which are intended towards better spiritual growth. The methods we offer can heal acute or chronic diseases, body ailments, stress and tensions, emotional problems, addictions, negative habits, relationships, abundance and much more. For inquiries, contact Rondson (0917-7972880), Nino (0917-9882475) and Nonie (0918-5162731) or e-mail at drapal2000@yahoo.com and gilbertcastillejos.com or check out http://www.reiki.com. multiply consciousness.

Study in USA seminar

USA AS A DESTINATION does not need further selling because for many Filipinos, it is the for American dream. And for most of them, the best way to realize that dream is to study in the USA. But with all the options available of excellent American schools, how can one discern the best choice? International Education Specialists Exec-Edu, in cooperation with the US Commercial Service, presents a free opportunity to explore studying in the USA when Study Group visits Manila to hold seminars, interviews and dialogue with students on Oct. 12, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. covering high school studies, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. covering university courses and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. covering master's degrees in the American Business Center, 23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Because the venue is a US Embassy facility employing tight security - no bags or cellphones are allowed inside.

Study Group aims in placing students to top American learning institutions, from high school to colleges and universities, and even graduate level studies.

For more information on the Study USA seminars, contact Intel-Ed at 2/F Wadapt Plaza, 814 Arlegui St., Intramuros, Manila; telephones 875-3005, 819-1082, fax 810-3625, 811-6977; mobile phones 09916) 442-6128, (09218) 378-4527; or email info@intel-ed.com.ph; or visit www.intel-ed.com.ph/study-usa-seminar.html.

SATURDAY Special

SAROYUD JAMBAND PAREDES. Tough act to follow.

'Kami nAPO Muna' is a mixed blessing

By Nicolai Torre

IN THE HISTORY OF ORIGINAL Pilipino Music, there's been no other group quite like the Apo Hiking Society. When they first came into the scene more than 30 years ago OPM was still a largely nebulous concept, but the trio's very Pinoy style of music-making soon made it more popular than the Americans Top 40 junk then saturating the airwaves.

They (nods graciously all of us fall in love with their sister music, and so entered by the recent release of the million-seller album "Kami nAPO Muna (Throw in Apo Hiking Society)," we are still very much enamored with Danny Javier, Jim Paredes and Rodrigo Camarillo.

Special edition

To that day and age of piracy, the album (which has a two-disc special edition with the original versions) seem good mere days after its release marks new profanity section to may come crossing thresholds.

Featuring well-known bands and individual artists like Brodyo ni Edgar, Barbie Almalbis, Kamikazee, Smokey, Rivermaya, and The Dawn, this 19-track compilation sounds very promising—since most about from the CD's today, that is. The CD itself doesn't quite live up to that promise.

Most track "Pumapanik ang Ulan" is considered by Brodyo ni Edgar doesn't exactly blow your mind. Okay, so it's originally a chill-out song, but here—despite the band's presence of both drums and bass—they've made this old favorite sound positively unpolitic.

Second track "Hihip sa Hilaw" fares better in the hands of Orange & Lemons, though it isn't one of the standout performances in this album.

Swings classic

"Ikaw Bakas" certainly qualifies as one of those, but not exactly in a good way. Kamikazee's version of this swing classic hardly has any swing on. Its vital instrument, melody.

To be sure, the turned-up version is interesting (and proving to be quite popular), but it robs the song of its original charm and replaces it with an experimental quality that takes points for its originality, but sounds too much like a self-disjointed Jazz drink for otherwise it is you call the standard versions (turned).

One of the performances that does stand out positively is the Jaybeesmar rendition of "Isang Bagsakan." Just a bit faster than the original, it sounds fresh and young—a thoroughly likable performance that's just as danceable.

Good enough

As the CD plays on, however, you'll realize that there really aren't that many astounding tracks here. Ok, they're mostly good enough—after all, it would take a singular lack of talent to mess up such well-crafted songs—but only a few numbers grab your attention, and the whole exercise seems rather pointless. Why listen to "good enough" renditions when you can have the unadulterated originals?

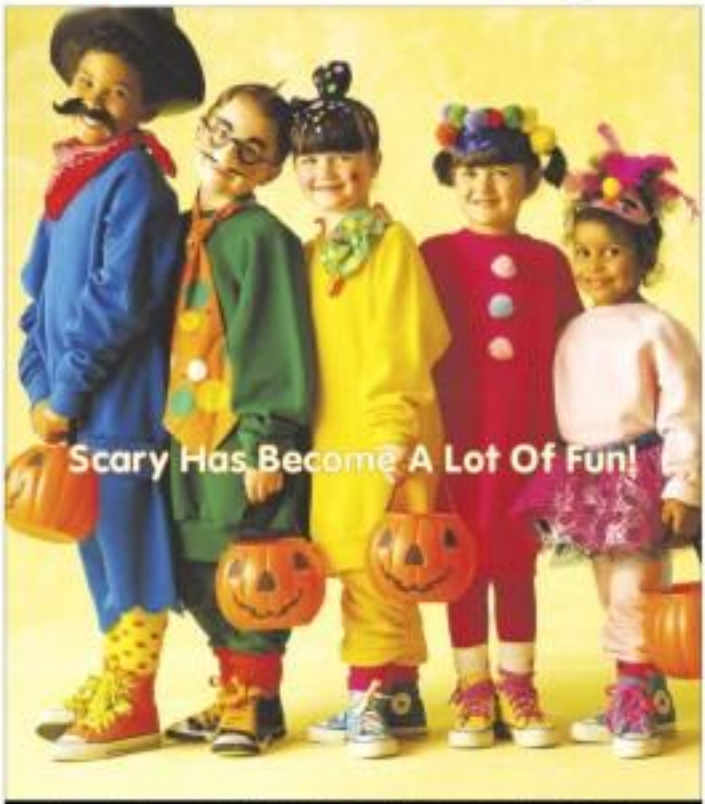
Nonetheless, there are some great performances here—"Sayang Isa Ka Pa" by Sugarfree, "Kahilagan ng Bituin" by Drip, and "Bonus Buo" by The Dawn.

Best number

The first is probably the best number in the entire disc. Sugarfree lead singer Flor gives a finely nuanced performance that contrasts sharply with those of other jam-crooning, doing artists.

Drip's rendition of "Kahilagan ng Bituin" is wonderfully-skilled one, and The Dawn make "Bonus Buo" sound like one of their own songs.

Perhaps the problem here is simply that most of the participating artists forgot to look up the meaning of the word chorus. They don't sound as though they put their hearts to it. If you're paying tribute, ain't that the first thing you do?



Shang Halloween Carnival '06 • Grand Atrium • October 28, 1:00pm

This year, Shang's Halloween Party brings to life the vibrant noise and colors of the carnival. No more frightened souls, only merry ones.

TRICK TREAT

How To Join:
1. The Halloween Party is open to kids from ages 1 to 12 who dressed come in Halloween costume.
2. Registration of P150 is required.
3. Registration period starts on October 9 from 11:00am to 6:00pm or the Shangri-La Plaza Corp. Administration Office or Level 3.
4. Only the first 250 registrants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.
5. No-show participants will not be qualified for registration fee refund.

No Tricks! Just Treats!

Delightful to Watch: Hokkien Shows • Mime Artists • Stilt Walkers & Jugglers

Worthy To Bond: Glamorous Tattoos • Cotton Candy • Bing Toss • Parathoots Hockey • Shang Creation Popcorn • Quiz • Face Art • Photo Magnet • Gardenia Facial

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We Stand Out.
We Rock The World!

CCA

CCA, Manila, the Philippines' pioneer in formal culinary education, continuously leads the way in the food service industry by giving you practical hands-on education, equipping you with the most excellent skills to excel in the global culinary arena.

Not only will you graduate highly competent and passionate with your craft, we'll make sure you'll bring home and young cities as you face and rock the world.

Enrollment is on going for its June and January intakes: Diploma in Culinary Arts and Management (2 years) Certificate in Culinary Arts (1 year)

Enhance your diploma and earn a degree through our international partner schools:
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (Canada), Blue Mountains Hotel School (Australia), Johnson and Wales University (USA), Les Roches School of Hotel Management (Switzerland) and Thames Valley University (UK)

Scholarships available for deserving applicants.

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OPENS OCTOBER 11

THE GUARDIAN

Distributed by Buena Vista International Rica Columbia Pictures

Seeing double

By Nestor U. Torre

THESE DAYS, STARS DON'T MAKE AS many movies as they used to...so when they appear in two films in a row, it's cause for celebration. It's also an opportunity to enthuse a lead player's versatility as he plays diverse characters, sometimes in radically different types of films.

STRIDE: From "Pirate" to "Pirates Home Companion."

ALTERING: Stevie "The Guardian," raising it animated talent.

Icy perfection

For instance, Meryl Streep recently scored an acting coup in "The Devil Wears Prada," where she portrayed a fashion magazine editor "from hell" to icy perfection.

However, in her next movies, "Prairie Home Companion," Streep makes a radical shift and plays it warm, homespun and soul. Even better yet, the film is mapped by the Robert Altman, which makes it a should see in our book.

For his part, Tim Allen is cast in two family flicks in a row, "Toons" and "Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause." The sequel is par for the course for films in the respective genres.

This time around, he's looking forward to the birth of baby Claus, but his happiness turns sour when Jack Frost (Martin Short) tries to take over the Christmas season!

In "Toons," Allen is cast as an out-of-shape former superhero who is tasked with the seeming 48 hour mission to save Toontown as they are trying to save the world from destruction.

The actor agreed to appear in the film because he likes working with young actors, and because he responded to the story's theme about kids who are special but feel like outcasts. And Allen thought it would be fun to play a character who's not to his reborn himself his outtakes he made in the past.

Another star who's making back-to-back appearances this film season is Hugh Jackman. In "The Prestige," Jackman plays a magician whose intense rivalry with another top performer (Christian Bale) results in a life-long battle of supremacy that's full of obsession, deceit and jealousy, and has dangerous and even deadly consequences.

Worst singer

In huge contrast, in "Happy Feet," Jackman provides the voice of Memphis, an Emperor penguin who must teach his young son, Mumble, to find a "heartsong" to attract a mate. Trouble is, Mumble is the worst singer in the world!

Incidentally, we've also seen a double when it comes to penguin films. We've just viewed the full-length documentary, "Penguins: Penguins, Prairie Dog Emperor" ("March of the Penguins" in Filipino translation), and now, here comes the animated feature, "Happy Feet." Well, penguins are as cute as all get out, so we welcome the twin scoop-viewing treat.

Youthful confidence

A fourth star who's making movies all over the place is Ashton Kutcher in "The Guardian," he tries the action genre for the first time. He plays Jake Fischer, a former swimming champion whose strength as a swimmer is wounded only by the power of his self-confidence. Kutcher's co-star is another Oscar winner.

In lighthearted contrast, Kutcher is voicing the role of Elliot, a fast talking mule deer, in the full-length animated film, "Open Season."

The film is about Boog, a domesticated grizzly bear, whose perfect world vanishes when Elliot convinces him to leave his cushy home in a park ranger's garage for a taste of the great outdoors.

NEXT ATTRACTION

From the producers of "WEDDING CRASHERS"

WIN THE CONTEST

WIN THE GIRL

Jessica Simpson

Dane Cook Dax Shepard

Employee of the Month

WEDDING ADVISORY: A MUST-SEE MOVIE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED SOON.

The FUNNIEST and CRAZIEST wedding comedy of the year from the company that gave you 'NOTTING HILL'!

To Win Her Heart, He Must Come Up with the Perfect Disguise.

RACHAEL LEIGH COOK (star of "Nancy Drew")

KENNY DOUGHTY (star of "The Great Raid")

OPENS OCT.11

my first wedding

LAUGH TILL YOU DROP!

Anak TV Seal finals set in Davao

MOCED. SEAFCTY

AFTER 8,00 screenings held all over the country since March under the auspices of Yes, you Navigation, Columbia Interactional, Splash Corp. and Cuddlebelts, the Anak TV Seal Secretariat announces that a total of 91 entries have been shortlisted and have now been elevated to the final round by over 1,337 jurors from all walks of life.

The second leg of the national finals will be held on Oct. 14 at the Ateneo de Davao University in Davao City. The finals, hosted by Ateneo de Davao University, Columbia International and Cuddlebelts, coincide with the national celebration of Children's Month.

Finalists

ABS-CBN has 14 entries now aiming to receive the annual Anak TV Seal, the mark of family-friendly television. IBC has 10 finalists, Studio 23 has six, NET 25 has seven, GMA has eight, ASC 5 has 13, BEC has three, NBN has 11 and CITY has eight.

The TV shows that will win the nod of the panel of experts in the twin finals set in Davao and Baguio automatically six for the child and final jury deliberations that will be consisting of the presidents and general managers of the various member TV networks of The Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television.

Jurors

Among the jurors in the Davao finals are child psychologists, curriculum specialists, college deans, leaders of the clergy and civil and

ANAK TV 14

Gamelan classes at UP

THE UP COLLEGE OF MUSIC, now marking its 90th anniversary, offers gamelan classes conducted by Lilymae Montage Fuentes Montage, who trained under Indonesian masters who taught gamelan playing for 15 years at the college. Call 981 8000, local 2105.

'Eugene Onegin'

Tchaikovsky's opera, "Eugene Onegin," will have its final performance at the UP Main Theater tonight. The UP Conservatory of Music presentation tap. Julie Andrew Jacinto and Rachelle Gonzalez, with Ikenne Ramos as musical director and Floy Quintos as director. Call 981-8522 or 832-1121.

SpongeBob SquarePants at Jollibee

Join SpongeBob SquarePants and his friend Bernie Bedbug as they splash into Jollibee stores in their latest Kids' Meal offering. SpongeBob SquarePants Pirated Jollies.

The four functional toys are SpongeBob Hopa for my pajamalas, Patrick Bale Jumper to make self-surfing bubbles which can be blown out into the Mr. Krabs Blaster, plus the Sandy Cheeks Ice Cream Chiller for making soft-serve ice cream.

What's more, you can celebrate your birthday at Jollibee with a SpongeBob Party thereafter, get a chance to win a trip for four to Australia to meet SpongeBob in person when you purchase two orders of the Jollibee Kids' Meal. Log on to www.sm-spint.com.

MARC CANTIL, JOCKEN, TRALLO, QUICOM. Tapahl propel-amica's new 'Ang Kayo!' campaign.

WILLIAMS. "Close Encounters" concert on TV on Oct. 8.

High-Five for Smart Buddy

"Ang Astig!" is the winning theme of the new advertising campaign for Smart Buddy, the country's largest prepaid service, featuring hot young talents Angel Locsin, Epy Quizon, Sam Milby, Gerson Nello and Anne Curtis.

The High Five series shows how smart they love embody the different people who subscribe to Smart Buddy.

Angel reminds subscribers that Smart has lowered the price of MMS to P5 per send, Dennis promotes the SI Text service, Epy plugs Libre Text abroad, Sam reminds viewers for text call service, and Anne boasts to 250 combo packages.

On Star World

Robbie Williams' "Close Encounters" concert will be premiered on Star World at 9 p.m. on Oct. 8.

On Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 9 p.m., "Live's Anatomy" returns with more riveting and complex episodes dealing with love, sex, life, death—and doctors.

Talking the talk in broadcast media

By Bobo Cervantes

I RECEIVED A LOT OF calls from friends and acquaintances after I wrote about the bad habits of television personalities, especially those in the news department. Many of the callers said I should have pointed out the funny accents of radio disk jockeys, who think they're "in" when they speak naturally and are inner City-type idiomatic phrases.

Time announces Americanese, Tagalog words and Filipino cuisine. In a week, our capital city becomes Manildad, and the summer capital becomes Bag-guide! For sun, fun and games, they refer to these as lifesaving even if the islands names call it Bell-Away Instead of sari-sari, they say "sari-sari."

Ridiculous

They talk about Kris Aquino, or Ariel Ilerra. Even if they're aware that unenlightened American mispronounce her name, they still refer to the famous lawyer singer as Jennifer (one-pic Ribeyblue).

Reporters in New York got so tired of mispronounced TV host, Gerardo Sotuco, Americanizing his name to Jerardo that they turned in letters to network bosses in his Spanish mode—and the pinoys may as pronounce his name!

He was forced to apologize to them and most then has pronounced his name Herardo, as he should have from the very beginning. It's not like he didn't know how to pronounce his own name, right?

Confusion

Another complaint, especially from parents, is the flagrant use of English in the each way out of decent communication problems among the young. Sadly, this practice results in confusion and lack of maturity. These days, there's hardly any effort to speak either language correctly.

I was raised to speak both languages well. If you chose to speak Tagalog, you did so correctly as you could. If you spoke English, observe correct grammar. Now, there's a tendency to hairtrollon both languages.

I appreciate Randy David, who uses both languages with flair and integrity. I am slightly taken aback when newscasters and talk show hosts use aversion-aversion and prime-prime, instead of "more or" and "going to." Not long ago, that was a no-no. These days, however, newscasters who should know better take the path of least resistance and utilize street grammar even when discussing environment.

Sober stance

In this area, Ricky Carandang and Ding Pinto are exemplary in the use of formal English. On matters and public affairs shows, Cherlie Lyzon stands out for her fine, unaffected English, as well as for her sober stance on any issue, controversial or otherwise.

Department heads of TV networks have become too liberal when dealing with their on-cam personnel. Television personalities have an effect on impressionable, young viewers. Instead of undermining them, they should serve as examples of fine communication.

The perceived deterioration of English and Tagalog have not partly be blamed on the swollen use of these languages by people in media, especially the broadcast media, because of their wide reach, newscasters, announcers, talk show and entertainment hosts should take their responsibility seriously as grammatically proficient communicators.

Lessons learned

LOTUS POND

R. Valenciano and S. Brainard

OUR TEACHER ONCE SAID, "Turn the negative into a positive." So, while we experienced a strong typhoon recently, an unexpected deeply there are some redeeming

It seems some and go, they're just a feeling, passing clouds.

Material pleasures and distractions in the same way.

They appear, then fade away.

Which is merely power and necessity.

And you will be humbled by God's supremacy.

What more has built for years

Can be toppled in a minute by Nature's power.

Environment

We destroy our environment without much concern.

Nature's gifts to look to the

looking soft serve ice cream.

Where, now, you can celebrate your birthday at Jollibee with a SpongeBob Party thereafter, get a chance to win a trip for four to Australia to meet SpongeBob in person when you purchase two orders of the Jollibee Kids' Meal. Log on to www.sm-spint.com.

Insinte set need to learn.

Wheels a reason through a window.

Stoke in the love of the Supreme

As you view life's highs and lows.

A storm can topple a shallow-rooted tree.

A problem can devour a man devoid of spirituality.

At the end of a storm, we become more mature.

If we look to the shelter of the Eternal, which will endure.

Anak TV Seal finals . . .

Pero page G2

empower society, media experts, visual artists as well as parents and ABS-CBN leaders from Quezon City and nearby municipalities.

Anak TV is the ABS-CBN's flagship project. It is supported by Unicef and Nagyon Navigation as well as by family-friendly companies Goldilocks, Coca Pacific, Splash Corp., Universal Robina Corp., Nutrasurge, NLEX, Visa Electron, Jollibee and Columbia's.

Edgardo Roces, former president of ABC-5, is current president of the foundation and Meg Cruz-Nasol is the secretary general.

Chelsea Emata . . .

From page G1

Colleen Lovato and Jeanne Cruz for voice technique.

All this preparation and honing served Chelsea in very good stead as she worked in a great number of productions at the Los Angeles area.

Featured player

On TV, she was a feature singing on "Night for Dance" on G-Channel, and "20 Seconds to Shine" on Fox. She hosted "Runners of Fourth" on Channel 25, and did sketch comedy on "Globe Mishmash" on the Disney Channel, and "Wild and Crazy Kids" on Nickelodeon.

Her stints in musical theater were similarly noteworthy. She played Hodel in "Fiddler on the Roof," Serena in "Some Like Musical," and Connie Rhoop in "Chorus Line," all at the Stars Theater.

Best of all, she sang the role of Griselda in Paramount Studios' production of the acclaimed musical, "Cats."

Voice-over work

Chelsea has also done voice-over work in Liz to Web situations's "Wild Thunderstorm." Home in Sony's "Beyond Awards for the Spirit Dance," and the title roles in "Eddie," and "Mirabella," both for Magic Dreams Entertainment.

Chelsea has also found inspiration in her Tita Bing's success as a composer, and has written and co-written 40 of her own songs.

As a singer, she has recorded three in 300 songs. Having spent close to a thousand hours in the studio working on tracks, recording and collaborating with well-known producers, Chelsea has become a seasoned pro.

CHELSEA has recorded close to 100 songs.

Female pop group

When she joined the female pop group SSA, she further developed her songwriting, harmonizing and performing capabilities.

Three days, Chelsea is bent on a solo performing artist and has just recorded a 10-song CD of her own compositions. Titled "Un Mundo Nuevo Es," the CD is unexpected as pop/R&B/rock, and will be released before the end of the year.

Our hope is that Chelsea will find time to perform in the Philippines, to share her gift for music and performing with local audiences. The next time she goes on home leave, perhaps?

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Movie schedules now showing on your phone.
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Globe

Chelsea Emata pursues thriving multi-media career in the States

By Nestor U. Torre

FILAM SINGING SENSATION Chelsea Emata began her singing career in the Philippines at a really early age. She was only five years old when she performed in her aunt Lourdes "Ning" Fleurmel's concert of well-composed songs.

That experience was a most enjoyable one for little Chelsea. Her beautiful rendition of her aunt's song about a swordfishers, "Batang Lansangan," elicited an ovation from delighted listeners that further increased the child singer's love for performing.

Standout singer

After her family moved to the States, Chelsea took up lessons in singing and dancing to hone her natural performing talents, and she became a standout singer. She graduated from the LA County High School for the Arts, where she studied music theory, dance and theater.

It was around this time that Chelsea flew back to the Philippines to star in Ning's religious musical revue, "Sasaan si Herod?" Among others, she played a teenage girl burdened with an unwarranted pregnancy, and won plaudits both for her acting and singing prowess.

Back in the States, Chelsea trained at the Academy of Radio Broadcasting, at Wide Awake Hill in acting for TV and commercials, and with

CHELSEA ILA

CHELSEA. Exceptional singer, recording artist, TV performer and much-else! (photo)

ANGAT ANG PINOY BUONG LINGGO

Saturday

1:00 pm Wowowee Live sa Pampanga!
Mga celebs, naka East Gate Center, San Fernando, Pampanga sina Willie at ang cast ng Maging Sino Ka Man! John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Aiza Cortes & Sam Milby.

Nagmamahal, Kapamilya
Ang nakakubkubang kuwento ng Reyna ng Sablay. Zaijia Marsh with Tom Gossage at 'Di Tayo' tour Dec Hakuun.

Let's Go
The GO girls meet the stars of their dreams.

Star Magic Presents "Five Minutes"
Featuring Jonas Gamboa & Roxanne Guinoo. Kaya mo bang ma-in love sa isang lalake within 5 minutes of meeting him?

Komiks presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko
Aawang vs original Pinoy adventure... Mananalo ba ang kasamaan sa kabutihan?

John En Shirley
Si Lola Rosan, may lovelife pa? Guest star Eddie "Manoy" Garcia loves Manoy Susan Roces.

TV Patrol Sabado
Mga balitang dito ma lang mabalitaan.

XXX
Illegal recruiter, makukulata na!

Pinoy Dream Academy
Sino kina Ganay, Nrbstff, Gona at Yong ang ma-e-expel at sasabak na ng bahay?

Aang-ging
May pera pala sa pasko si Kaanna?

Sports Unlimited
Silipin ang bagong bahay at baby ni PACMAN!

IMAGINASYON NG PINOY

Sunday

12:00 noon ASAP '06 Holdog Party
Repapips. Jamming. Groovy tsong. Re-revive ang Manila sound... ASAP Music's HOTSILOG Album launch! Ang mga kanta ng 10's band HOTDOG bibigyan ng '06 spin!

Your Song ang buwelterr ng Lovelle Mo presents "Pare Lab" by Hotdog Starring: Sarah Geronimo and Carlo Aquino Paano kung ang first love mo forbidden love din? This October. It's the HOTDOG series special!

MUSIKANG PINOY

Love Spell presents Charm and Crystal
Starring: Shaina Magdayao, Rayver Cruz, Kim Chiu & Gerald Anderson

4:00 pm The Buzz

6:00 pm Goin' Bulilit
Kini-nal Dahil ang mga kids, magpaniwala!

TV Patrol Linggo
Pabili ang mga malimit na weekend balita.

Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo?
Mga nasal asarted na bagay sa Pinas!

Sharon
Is beauty skin deep? Pag-usapan yan nina Megastar, Vicky Belo at Manny Calayan kasama ang celebrity endorsers nila!

Pinoy Dream Academy
Luhaan na ang scholar na sasle sa Academy?

Sunday's Best
Star Olympics 28 on 2 (Part One). One Force. One Wish!

9 NA LIBRO NG SHOWBIZ, IBUBUNYAG NA!

Weekdays ito ang bagong ALL-TIME BIGTIME

10:45 am Homeboy
Makipagkwentuhan kay Boy Abunda, ang bestfriend ng bayan!

Pasan De Amor
TUTUKAN NIYO SALALAHTI NA PAGTATAPOS NG PINAKAMAGANDA NG TELENOVELA!

Pitisnas, Game K N B?
Masasagot mo ba ang mga tanong ni Kris?

My Girl Most Requested Series
Your favorite chick is in town!

Wowowee
Kasiyahan na ikaw ang bida!

Kapamilya Cinema
- BUHAY KAMAO
- GAGGOM: GALA ANG KATAPAT
- BUHAY NG, BUHAY NG ISA
- JUAN ANG TEN: WANTED
- VAMPIRA

KASIYAHAN NG PINOY

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

MAGING SINO KA MAN

ANG BAGONG BIGATING TELESERYE NA PAGBIBIDAHAN NG MGA MAGALAKING ARTISTA!

Primetime Bida pagkatapos ng TV Patrol World

Kapamilya Deal or No Deal
Nasa na ba ang susunod na milyonaryo?

Super Inggo

Nanalo ka na ba ng P10,000? Tutok lang kay Super Inggo at pwede kang maging supresyo!

Maging Sino Ka Man
Isang powerhouse cast sa isang powerful story.

Crazy For You
Malulubking na ba si Wacky ang double identity ni Janice?

Pinoy Dream Academy
Dito mo malalaman kung paano mag-training ang mga superstars!

Maalala Mo Kaya Friday after Maging Sino Ka Man
Batang patay na nanay. Starring Gula Valdes, Joel Torre at Nash Aguas

ANGAT ANG BAMBAMIN NG PINOY

REAL ACTION. REAL GUTS. REAL DISCIPLINE.

RPF

(Monday pagkatapos ng Bandila)

SUPER PANALO sa SUPER INGGO

ABS CBN